

Speak up
for swearing

Bryan Appleyard, page 17



The war crime, the
trial and a cover-up

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Living with an
agony aunt

Section Two



THE INDEPENDENT

3,012

THURSDAY 13 JUNE 1996

WEATHER Warm and sunny 46p (R 45p)

Prime Minister orders national inquiry into scandal of abuse in homes for young people At last the children are heard

REBECCA FOWLER
and COLIN BROWN

After three decades of anguish the voices of the children have finally been heard. The Government will today announce a national inquiry into the systematic sexual and physical abuse of hundreds of young people, who lived in terror in homes throughout Britain.

The Prime Minister will also order a separate judicial inquiry into the scandal of homes in Chwyd, where more than 100 children were abused. At least 12 former residents have died in circumstances related to their experiences.

The decision to address the scandal of the homes, where some of the most vulnerable

children in society were sent for protection, only to be betrayed by their carers in abuse spanning years, follows a campaign by the *Independent* to expose loopholes in the system.

Children as young as six were abandoned to the care of paedophiles, and were too afraid to talk of their experiences for years. Those who did turn to the authorities were often ignored and the abusers continued unchecked, or moved on to homes elsewhere.

Both the inquiries were welcomed by the most distinguished authorities on child abuse in homes, including Alan Levy, QC, who led the report into the abuse of more than 150 children in Staffordshire between 1983 and 1989.

Mr Levy said: "This is the way ahead, and for the victims it is vital. It means that at last they are being heard for the first time on a national scale. Their voices have finally reached the highest level of government."

But he added: "The inquiries have got to be conducted speedily and backed up by action. The sheer extent of the abuse, and the immense push it has received by this campaign, has finally had an effect, and this is the greatest opportunity there has been to act."

In a separate move, the Home Secretary will next week announce plans for a register of sex offenders, including an index of paedophiles, although the Government will face calls for it to also include those who have

been cautioned for sex offences by the police.

The inquiries that will finally break the silence have been called for by the Prime Minister, who will meet Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, and William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, to discuss the details. The impact of a recent report into the abuses in Chwyd was undermined by attempts to suppress its publication.

In Cheshire, where the biggest inquiry into abuse in homes is currently underway, more than 300 children were abused in cases that span from the late 1960s to 1993. A group of parents of 40 of the children wrote to John Major earlier this month, calling for an inquiry.

A senior Government source said last night: "The issue is being treated as a matter of great concern by the Prime Minister. He has asked to have an update of the situation. He feels it is appropriate that the Cabinet should have a report from Hague and Dorrell."

The Government has previously failed to respond to recommendations for change from other inquiries set up to investigate abuse scandals. Instead, a system that had allowed abusers to work undetected was allowed to continue largely unchanged for decades.

Among the most prominent scandals in children's homes that first brought the extent of the problem to light was the sexual abuse of more than 100 chil-

dren in Leicestershire between 1973 and 1986. Frank Beck, who ran local homes, exercised his infamous "regression therapy" in which he forced children to wear nappies, before he was finally convicted of rape and hugging.

An inquiry into the abuse of more than 61 children in care in Islington was launched last year, amid allegations that a paedophile network had been operating in homes since 1979; and further cases have also emerged in Norfolk, Hereford, Worcester, Essex and Berkshire.

Only when the first victims of abuse in homes came forward did others find the courage to follow. But for a handful the strain of recalling the events of

their childhood in care proved too much, and their adult lives ended in suicide.

Although victims have started to receive compensation for their experiences in care, many say their greatest motivation for bringing the abuse to light is to protect current generations of children going through care.

For experts in childcare and abuse, the priorities for change are: a general council, to act as a professional and disciplinary body; improved inspection of homes; a central register of care workers; and improved training and pay for one of the most beleaguered sectors in the social services.

Daphne Statham, director of the National Institute for Social Work, which has persistently

also called for change, said yesterday: "It is wonderful news the Government is taking this seriously. Whatever comes out of it, it means these people's complaints have finally been taken seriously. It also means we can protect those going through the system now, and get things improved for the future."

Sbc added: "For the victims that has always been part of their efforts to bring these abuses to light. As well as putting to right some of the wrongs of the past, this is a chance to protect children who will go into care in the coming years."

A Whitehall source said yesterday: "We can't give an absolute guarantee, but we can do all we can to try to prevent it from happening again."

World's most important poll racked by violence

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

As the last few days of campaigning unwind, the Russian election, perhaps the most important poll of the 1990s, has become both nasty and dangerous. Though it may masquerade as a free and open democratic affair - with television debates, opinion surveys, slick candidates and colourful public rallies - the resemblance is wearing thinner by the day.

An alarming amount of blood has already been shed. Seven weeks ago the doctor of the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was shot dead in Moscow. Six days ago the Moscow mayor's running mate was critically injured by a blast outside his apartment. And on Tuesday, four people died in a bomb in a metro train.

No one yet knows for sure if these events were an attempt to disrupt the election, the first round of which is on Sunday. But they seem too coincidental to be unrelated, even in this violent capital, where businessmen are shot dead every other day and the mafia preys on almost every level of the business community. Add to this reports yesterday that one candidate, Grigory Yavlinsky, a liberal reformer, was allegedly threatened with violence against his children if he campaigned seriously, and one cannot mistake a malign pulse beneath a seemingly orderly surface.

Whoever planted the metro bomb did so knowing that he could kill dozens of people. "This savage barbaric act on the eve of the elections is aimed at destabilising the situation in the capital and creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear in Russia," Boris Yeltsin said yesterday. "The best response to the machinations of the extremists will be a vote... for civil peace, for stability."

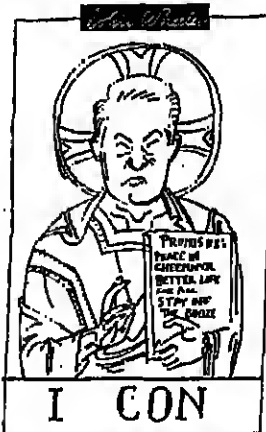
But that atmosphere of fear and uncertainty began long before the bomb went off. Mr Yeltsin's own aides - most recently, Sergei Filatov - have

been predicting civil war, and accusing their chief rivals, the communist-nationalist coalition, of setting up armed brigades across the country which would go into action if they lost the election. Such remarks one would normally put down to campaign rhetoric; and that is probably what they were. But Russia's recent history, from the bombardment of parliament in 1993 to the failed coup of 1991, means they cannot be dismissed outright.

The tone of current political debate betrays the tension. Shops across the city bear notices telling people to "hurry now, before the shortages start again". The Yeltsin camp has distributed millions of copies of a newspaper called *Ne dai Bog!* (God Forbid!) showing his rival, Genady Zyuganov, as a mad surgeon wielding a hammer and sickle in place of a scalpel. Far from being apathetic about politics, Russians these days often come close to fisticuffs when the issue is raised.

Even before the vote - and Sunday's poll seems certain to be followed by a run-off next month - there is skulduggery in the air. Mr Yeltsin has used the national media to his ends, shutting out Mr Zyuganov. Exploiting the benefits of incumbency, he has raised the Central Bank of \$1bn to pay for his election promises. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin appeared at a huge rally and pop concert in Red Square before thousands of youths, a gala occasion which contrasted with the low-budget events organised by Mr Zyuganov's team. Despite hordes of international observers, and laws allowing parties to carry out parallel counts, almost all Russians expect some degree of fraud.

The ugliness of the battle is all the more alarming because it matters, both for Russia and for the rest of the world. Watching from the sidelines, it is easy to assume this contest is a straight fight between reform and democracy (Yeltsin) and communism (Zyuganov). It is



"great power status", shored up by a xenophobic element in the Orthodox Church.

But what if Mr Yeltsin wins? A victorious Mr Yeltsin is capable of going into hibernation again. Surrounded by a cast of dubious characters, at 65, his health is dodgy, and is likely to worsen. For all the evidence that the economy is beginning to show promising shoots, Russia could easily lurch off course, and slip into a benighted state, overrun by the mafia, corruption, and social decay.

Both paths should worry the world. Five years after the end of the Soviet Union, Russians are getting a swig of democracy - with a bitter aftertaste that could convince many of them that they have already had enough. If the elections pass without any more violence, success will not lie in the results, but that the elections happened at all.

Peking backs Yeltsin, page 11



The good old days: An elderly Stalinist holds a picture of his hero during a rally for Genady Zyuganov Photograph: AFP

QUICKLY

Millionaires grow

The million-pound City man is back. Hundreds of top investment bankers, analysts and dealers are looking to enjoy salaries and bonuses of at least £1m this year. Page 3

hauling in the Net

In an unprecedented expression of US global might, a court in Philadelphia issued a ruling yesterday on freedom of information in cyberspace whose legal consequences will be felt around the world. Page 4

Law Society attack

The Law Society's handling of complaints against solicitors is so poor that it risks losing the right to regulate the profession, the legal services watchdog warned yesterday in a scathing report. Page 5

Chancellor predicts a win

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

If England somehow fails to win Euro 96, the success of the economy will be our consolation. So the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, assured a City of London audience last night in his annual Mansion House speech.

Mr Clarke - who saw England win at Wembley in 1966, when interest rates were going up and the Wilson government had introduced a prices and wages freeze - claimed to have found the recipe for economic success.

But the Chancellor, who expects to see unemployment fall below 2 million next year, shied away from predicting the return

of the feelgood factor. The speech prepared the ground for a downgrade of his 3 per cent growth forecast due to be published next month. What mattered, Mr Clarke said in upbeat mood, was that demand would pick up during the year.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said later: "Having last month been forced to admit his horrifying forecast was wrong, Mr Clarke has now, for the first time, been forced to admit he is unlikely to get the 3 per cent growth he promised in the Budget." He added: "The fact is we have a lamentable record of investment and we are falling behind all our competitors."

However, the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie

George, who was also speaking at the Mansion House dinner, said the recent performance of the economy had been "remarkable" by past standards.

In his speech the Chancellor said he had no intention of engineering a pre-election boom. In a stern warning to backbenchers clinging to hopes of big tax cuts in the Budget he said: "We are not pursuing a 1990s version of Reaganomics - slash taxes and hang the deficit."

Taxes would be reduced when it was affordable, and it was an insult to the electorate's intelligence to think they could be bribed by premature tax cuts, Mr Clarke said - omitting to mention that the strategy appeared to have worked for

President Reagan in the 1980s.

Mr Clarke said he would cut interest rates again if it did not threaten his inflation target, and he would not hesitate to put them up either if the state of the economy demanded it. "Those who say it will be politically impossible to do so are talking of lightweight, populist politics. I have nothing to gain and everything to lose from letting inflation out of its box."

His speech also took a robust pro-European line. "We need to retain a leading and influential position in the world's most powerful single market, the European Union, in order to take full advantage of our opportunities," he said. Update assessment, page 19

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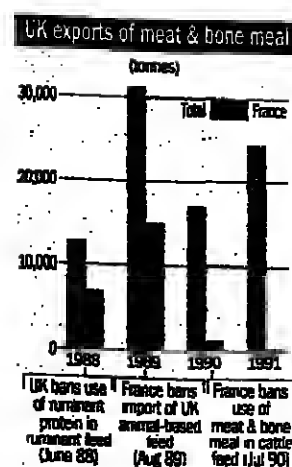
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news

Beef crisis: Government allowed export of contaminated feed despite UK ban, magazine says

Britain 'caused French BSE'



CHARLES ARTHUR and MARY DEJEVSKY

French claims that its cases of BSE have been imported from Britain appeared justified yesterday - by British government statistics.

The culprits appear to have been British rendering companies desperate to keep their businesses going after July 1988, when the UK government banned the sale of meat and bone meal (MBM) made from cows and sheep for use in cattle feed.

The renderers, facing a collapsing home market, exploited a loophole in export regulations - which did not prohibit such sales abroad - to sell the potentially contaminated products at knock-down prices to France, Germany, Spain, and other non-EU countries such as Israel.

UK government statistics quoted in the science journal *Nature*, published today, show that in 1989 British exports of MBM, which is thought to have been the original source of the BSE epidemic in Britain, were double those in 1988, reaching over 30,000 tonnes. Exports to France in particular grew from 8,000 tonnes to 16,000 tonnes. The French government did



Meat trade: The former rugby player, John Jeffries, giving out free beef in Edinburgh after a protest by farmers

Photograph: Colin McPherson

not ban the use of MBM from cattle feed until July 1990.

Contaminated feed is highly infectious: one gram is enough to pass the disease to a cow. But the latency period for BSE means that any cases caused by the exported feed would only have started showing up in the past couple of years.

Nature quotes a British Veterinary Association official who said the Government ignored his warnings about the dangers.

"I badgered our chief veterinary officer, saying that having identified a 'poisoned food' it was immoral to export it," said the unnamed official. "I was firmly put in my place..."

France has insisted since the beginning of the beef crisis that its cases of BSE are the result of imported feed. All the cases reported there so far have been in the north of the country, near the Channel, or in Brittany. The disease has also occurred in

Switzerland, Israel, Germany and Spain, though only to a limited extent.

A spokesman for the UK Renderers' Association said that its members "might have" exported feed for use in cattle feed. "But they have applied whatever legislative controls the government introduced."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said that it "could not rule out" that

exported MBM "might have been fed to ruminants abroad". Asked if it would have been irresponsible of renderers to exploit the loophole, a spokeswoman said: "We would draw our own conclusions."

The news was greeted with outrage in France, where anger was directed first at Britain, for permitting exports of a commodity that was judged unsuitable for use at home, and second at the EU, for not fol-

lowing up Britain's 1988 ban with one of its own.

Meanwhile, efforts to achieve a solution to the beef crisis suffered a setback when veterinary officials from several EU nations demanded Britain increase the number of cattle to be destroyed. They demanded changes in the criteria for selecting animals to be culled, meaning the total prime beef cattle destroyed would swell to 100,000 from 80,000.

Britain raises stakes in disruption drive

COLIN BROWN JOHN LICHFIELD STEPHEN GOODWIN

Downing Street last night raised the stakes over the threat to carry on disruption to the Florence summit at the end of the month after European Union veterinary surgeons demanded the number of British cattle in cull be increased from 80,000 to 100,000.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, yesterday revised the British framework plan for lifting the beef ban in a step-by-step approach, in the hope of

winning approval before the EU summit. But the Prime Minister's office said they were remaining cautious about the chances of reaching agreement before the summit. The policy of non-cooperation would continue until the framework had been agreed.

It would be raised "vigorously" by the Prime Minister at Florence if the framework had not been agreed, said a government source. The threat to disrupt the summit will dismay the Italian presidency, which has been helpful. British sources said the European Commission

was helping in the negotiations for the framework deal.

Britain has strongly resisted increasing the cull. But many EU nations are deeply sceptical that Britain is doing enough to wipe out the disease and restore consumer trust in beef.

It also emerged last night that the British veto led to the blocking of draft EU letters on Salman Rushdie, the writer, whose demands for the lifting of the death threats by Iran have been taken up by Britain.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said Britain was winning the battle over beef.

"There is now a serious prospect of an agreement being reached... next week," he told the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Despite his optimism, he received a gentle roasting from Conservative and Labour committee members. Two veteran Tories, Michael Jopling and Sir Jim Lester, said the Government campaign of non-cooperation could cause more problems than it solved.

Mr Rifkind accepted it was a "high-risk strategy" but said the Government felt it had no choice. "There is now a serious

effort being made by the (European) Commission and (Italian) presidency (of the EU) to deliver an agreement in a short period of time." This was not the case 10 days ago, he said.

The same message was delivered in the Commons chamber when Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign-affairs spokesman, asked what justification there could be for non-cooperation. "The UK would not negotiate under duress, why do we expect our European partners to do so?"

The justification lay in Tuesday's remark by Jacques Santer,

the EC president, that he was "optimistic" that there could be a framework next week for the lifting, "phase by phase", of the ban, according to the Foreign Secretary.

None the less his confidence seemed to fly in the face of statements by other EU governments. Mr Rifkind rejected suggestions that other countries were calling on Britain to abandon its blocking policy before any progress could be made on lifting the EU ban on UK beef exports. "This had seemed to be the case at one point," Mr Rifkind said but "no longer".

EC may fund Millennium show

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

Part of the cost of staging the £500m Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich may be met with European Commission cash, despite the "war" with Brussels.

The possibility has prompted angry allegations that the south-east London site is receiving more favourable Government treatment than Birmingham, the other contender to host the massive event.

Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, are leading a last-minute push to secure sufficient private backing for Greenwich. At the

same time, the *Independent* has learned that Mrs Bottomley is hopeful any gap in funding can be filled by the EC.

Last week, a delegation from Greenwich visited Brussels and held a series of meetings with the EC Transport and Culture Commissioners. The party saw Colette Flesch, Director-General of the EC's cultural side, and officials in the office of Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner.

A spokesman for Greenwich Millennium Trust, the exhibition organisers, said both sessions went well. No specific sums, he said, were discussed. Mr Kinnock's department was interested in making a grant towards the cost of providing a river-bus

service for the Greenwich peninsula, which is expected to attract 11-15 million visitors to the exhibition. Other EC cash, said the trust, is likely to come from the Commission's Article 10 Regional Development fund.

A spokesman for Mr Heseltine said that if the exhibition goes ahead in Greenwich, it is likely to qualify for EC urban regeneration funding.

Today, Labour and Conservative Midlands MPs will join forces with the city's National Exhibition Centre, which fought Greenwich for the right to stage the Millennium celebration, to hold a presentation at Westminster emphasising Birmingham's case.

Rubin Corbett, Labour MP

for Birmingham Erdington said EC money going to Greenwich was an outrage, and accused the Government of "cheating".

"All along," he said, "the Government has been moving the goalposts to enable Greenwich to win by the back-door." Birmingham, he added, had all its funding in place and could start work immediately.

The Greenwich Millennium Trust disputed Mr Corbett's claim, saying the peninsula, which is owned by British Gas, was always going to be redeveloped and was always going to be a candidate for EC aid.

The City of London Corporation yesterday put its backing behind Greenwich, promising £5m for the exhibition.

Eleventh-hour deal saves talks

DAVID McINTIRICK Ireland Correspondent

An eleventh-hour agreement in the early hours of yesterday morning averted the collapse of the Northern Ireland peace talks. The deal, though by no means unanimous, brought a sigh of relief from those who had feared the talks would run into the sand, following several days of deadlock and disagreement.

It came about when David Trimble's Ulster Unionists accepted former US Senator George Mitchell as chairman of plenary sessions. Mr Trimble's decision was welcomed by the British and Irish governments but furiously denounced by the other main Unionist leaders, the Rev Ian Paisley and Robert McCartney.

The breakthrough was achieved at a cost of slowing down the talks process, since one of the elements of the deal is that there is now to be a re-examination of Senator Mitchell's remit, the agenda and the procedural guidelines for the talks. This will occupy a full week, with the next plenary

session scheduled for next Wednesday afternoon.

Mr Trimble's party, while accepting the former Senator as plenary chairman, is anxious to circumscribe the functions which the two governments had proposed to give him. They will also seek changes to the agenda. The UUP claimed the talks would probably have collapsed had it not been for its accommodation.

However, this interpretation was not endorsed by the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, who said Senator Mitchell's role had not been diminished.

Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley believed Mr Trimble might join his party in a united Unionist front on the issue, only to be left isolated on the issue. Yesterday he declared: "I never thought Ulster would be sold as it was, not by the British government but by Mr Trimble doing a dirty deal with the Irish government."

Mr Paisley's position is that while he will not attend plenaries chaired by Senator Mitchell, his party will attend meetings chaired by others.

Leading article, page 15

Darlington scores in 'Euro 96' shoot-out

CLARE GARNER

It's been a game of two halves - one in Scarborough, the other in Darlington. But now the score is finally settled: 2-1 to Darlington, with a winner in injury time.

For the Bulgarian Euro 96 team has checked out of the Raven Hall Hotel, 12 miles

outside Scarborough, a week early and, like Romania, has headed for Darlington. The players were booked in at Scarborough until the end of the qualifying round, but lengthy trips to matches, the hotel's "isolation" and, crucially, the shortage of girls, proved too much.

John Williams, the leader of Darlington council, was celebrating victory last night. Scarborough, he said, never made sense as a place to stay.

The team was at least two hours from St James' Park, Newcastle, and one and a half hours from Elland Road, Leeds, the match venues, compared with a mere 45 minutes from both if it moved to Scarborough.

But while Scarborough was dignified in defeat, Darlington, meanwhile, could be in danger of getting too big for its football boots. "It might be a good idea for England to come up here to escape the news hounds," said Mr Williams. "It's only two and a quarter hours to King's Cross so it would be very easy for them to get to Wembley."

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Return of the million-dollar banker . . .

NIC CICUTTI

The million-pound City man is back. After several years of modest earning levels - in Square Mile terms at least - hundreds of top investment bankers, analysts and dealers are again enjoying salaries and bonuses of at least £1m this year. Poaching of individual staff, a common event that drives up salaries, has been supplanted by mass raids by at least one major bank on its rivals.

Other institutions are also recruiting select bands of financial specialists, driving up wages throughout the City as they scramble to join the top table of world banks.

The net effect has been to put salaries back up to the levels of 1993, when more than 100 top partners at the London offices of US bank Goldman Sachs earned final-year bonuses of more than \$1m (£600,000) each.

"My guess is that by the end

"My guess is by the end of this year there will be at least 1,000 dollar millionaires in the City . . . a minority, a few hundred, will be million pound men"

of this year there will be at least 1,000 dollar millionaires in the City, compared to half or two thirds that amount three or four years ago, probably many more," one headhunter said yesterday. "A smaller minority will be million-pound men, maybe a few hundred people."

Below them are a rapidly-growing number of thousands of executives at many top banks and securities houses whose earnings are comfortably in excess of £250,000 a year. Inevitably, for junior members of a bank's research or equity team, there are also pay rises.

The increase in City salaries comes as figures from the Inland Revenue show that the number of people earning in excess of £100,000 will have grown from 100,000 in 1993-94 to 130,000 next year. Those earning between £50,000 and £100,000 will also rise from 350,000 to 490,000 over the same period.

Unlike a few years ago, however, a feature of the City salary packages now is the guaranteed bonus. Instead of part of a person's remuneration being based on the employer's performance, it is alleged that potential recruits are being promised bonuses which are guaranteed several years hence.

The guilty player fingered by

many other investment banks is Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, whom they accuse of driving up wages by picking off entire cohorts of key staff.

One prominent - if not politically correct - investment banking source said yesterday: "Deutsche is the nigger in the woodpile. They are openly boasting that they can take out who they like. The salaries they are paying can be at least two or three times what people were earning before."

"Their strategy is that rather than go out and buy a bank they will pay whatever it takes to pick up another's top team."

One hoped-for effect is that by taking out an entire rival's team, they fundamentally weaken its ability to conduct future business in the same area, another leading investment banker said. "In practice, we are having to promise our big hitters that if they stay with us they will earn much more than they would if Deutsche had not been nosing around."

One of those affected by Deutsche's recruitment strategy is Swiss banking group UBS. Two senior members of its UK equities and research teams, both in their mid-30s, were recently lured to the German bank for salaries rumoured to be well over £1m each, double what they were earning at UBS.

The Swiss have not taken this lying down. One of their recent recruits, John Bishop, global head of precious metals and commodity risk management at UBS, was recently won over from Rothschild's for a pay packet rumoured to be worth several millions of pounds.

Deutsche yesterday rejected its rivals' allegations: "There is a lot of nonsense talked about what we are doing. About 18 months ago we said that all our banking activities would be integrated in London under one brand name."

"We said that as part of the re-organisation, we would start recruiting on a selective basis to take us into the areas we wanted to expand in. That is exactly what we have done. We have recruited about 250 people worldwide, but we have probably lost about 200 staff."

"Our remuneration policy has been very consistent. We pay market levels and where appropriate we will pay a first-year guaranteed bonus. Thereafter, remuneration is based on performance."

A spokesman added that rumours of two and three-year guaranteed bonuses were untrue: "In subsequent years, we pay the remainder of the first year's bonus as a way of helping to lock in our best staff."

Ironically, those suffering from Deutsche's poaching are not above playing the game. IM&G Barings, which recently suffered the loss of more than 50 of its South American specialists, is rumoured to be on the verge of picking up at least 10 members of another bank's South African team.

Comment, page 19



Money talk: The new generation of yuppies enjoying the sunshine at Broadgate in the City yesterday, where upwardly mobile salaries are back

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

. . . And his sidekick, the yuppie

NIC CICUTTI

Peter Rippin can't believe his luck. Sales at the City cigar merchant Walter Thurgood's, where he works, have always been buoyant. But this year's business, up at least 10 per cent on the same period last year, has been exceptional.

In part the sales boom is the result of a new cigar-smoking fad, imported from the United States. But as Mr Rippin readily admits, the new fashion he caters for would find it much more difficult to become established if his customers did not have the money to pay for their odorous purchases.

"I've just served a City gent who came in and bought three boxes of my Cuban cigars for £600. It does seem as there are a lot more people around with money to burn," he said yesterday. "Oops, I've got to go, the shop is full of customers."

The influx of new customers into Walter Thurgood's reflects a dramatic upturn in salaries paid to thousands of workers in the City, leading some ob-

servers to claim that wages in the Square Mile are in danger of equalling the high-point reached in the late 1980s.

Then, the sight of champagne-swilling yuppie traders, gorging themselves in expensive restaurants appeared to epitomise the decade's preoccupation for making money fast - and spending it just as easily.

Today, however, the picture is different. Most investment bankers will admit that a few among them are back to earning massive salaries. But, they claim, the high rewards are not as evenly spread among all employees. High pay is much more highly focused on the "big hitters", those capable by their specific skills of adding tens of millions of pounds to their employers' bottom line.

Come are the days of Porsches and high living: "Those who are earning big bucks are those who have something to offer," one investment banker said yesterday. "They are not interested in all the ostentatious that went on before, although if they see something

they like, they will pay to have it."

The root of the present pay spiral has been the determined poaching of several top investment banks of key teams they hope will help them to become key players in the global banking markets now developing.

Many banks, faced with a decline in real profits from retail banking - ordinary mortals' accounts - have decided that the answer lies in positioning themselves in the world investment

banking arena. Here, the ability to direct flows of billions of pounds out of one part of the world, such as the Far East, and into other emerging economic markets, including Latin America, becomes critical.

It is this perceived ability that led to the poaching earlier this month of more than 50 Latin America staff by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell from its Dutch-owned rival ING Barings.

Another area which increasingly commands high salaries is

corporate finance. Helping companies to float on the stock market, to mount bids for their rivals, or to fight them off is big business. Last year, about £69bn of takeover deals were carried out in London, up from £25bn in 1994. The 1994 total is about to be breached this year.

"You have to remember that a lot of this work is very much based on personalities, on who you know and how well you get on with them," one source said yesterday. "Anyone with a skill

in that area, and the team working for them can virtually demand what they want."

Despite the boom for some, others are not getting it so easy. One senior Japanese investment bank executive said: "In fact, salaries are getting more unequal, like the wider economy. About 9 out of 10 dealing floors are shaking out staff."

"If you are in the right place at the right time you can win the Lottery. But for most, the rewards are far more modest."

The UK in 1996: Police take baby from mother for forcible vaccination

A baby girl faces an unprecedented fourth vaccination against her parents' wishes, in what is believed to be the first case of physical enforcement of immunisation in the UK.

If the parents of the child, who is a ward of court and known only as Baby CP, do not present her at a local hospital today, police and social workers can remove her from their home.

At the hospital she will be subjected to a blood test which will decide if she needs another injection, despite independent medical advice that this is unnecessary, and the continued objection of her parents.

The action by health officials in Northern Ireland contravenes current Government policy on immunisation which says parental consent must be given. However, a leading medical critic is warning that this is yet another step towards the introduction of compulsory child-hood vaccination in the UK. Another senior doctor says the case will do "incredible damage" to the sensitive issue of vaccination of young children.

Baby CP's father said last night: "They have violated our right and duty to decide what is best for our child. We have suffered intimidation and stress and have been put under duress. They assaulted our newborn baby. What they have done, I believe, is illegal."

Liz Hunt on a case which may lead to the introduction of compulsory vaccination

His wife, an Asiatic woman, carries the Hepatitis B virus. When she became pregnant in 1993, she and her husband, a scientist with extensive medical knowledge, accepted advice that the child should be vaccinated within 12 hours of its birth, with two booster injections to follow. The boy

birth she was made a ward of court with a judge who issued an order requiring her to be vaccinated. Faced with police and social workers who threatened to take the child, and warned the father would be charged with manslaughter if the child developed Hepatitis B, the couple allowed the child to be vaccinated.

"They have violated our right and duty to decide what is best for our child. What they have done, I believe, is illegal"

developed a "devastating" widespread rash with weeping sores, according to the parents, which persisted for months. They blamed the vaccine.

When the woman fell pregnant again, the couple said they would prefer the child not to be vaccinated. Shortly after they received a letter from the Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB) in London, threatening court action if they did not give their consent. Within hours of Baby CP's

nated; but their opposition was recorded.

Since then, the child's father has sought the opinion of medical and scientific experts around the world to support his case, but says his grounds for opposing vaccination are being ignored. His wife has suffered two breakdowns in the year since her child's birth.

Dr Bill McConnell of the WHSSB said yesterday that transmission of Hepatitis B from mother to child was ex-

tremely high, and it is a Government recommendation to offer vaccination at birth.

"This is a unique circumstance and it differs from the normal immunisation because of the serious consequences of disease. Our overall responsibility is to act in the best interest of the child whether or not the parents agreed and that is why we chose to put the decision in front of a judge, he said."

Dr McConnell said that one in six children who contract the disease from their mother will develop cancer or cirrhosis of the liver and die before the age of 16. This figure was disputed by a leading virologist yesterday who said it was based on studies in developing countries and irrelevant to the present case.

However, Dr Richard Nicholson, a physician and editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, accused the WHSSB of "serious abuse of the family" and said neither they nor their medical experts have been given the opportunity to put their case in the High Court.

Professor Jangu Banatvala, one of the country's top virologists said he was "gravely concerned" about mandatory vaccination.

"This case will do incredible damage to the cause of immunisation. If parents do not want their child to be vaccinated then you cannot make them," he said last night.

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news

Freedom of speech: Federal authorities strike blow for on-line users worldwide with ruling that indecency act was 'intolerable'

US judges overturn ban on Internet porn

JOHN CARLIN
Atlanta

In an unprecedented expression of America's global might, a court in Philadelphia issued a ruling yesterday on freedom of information in cyberspace whose legal consequences will be felt all around the world.

Three federal judges blocked enforcement of a law signed by President Bill Clinton in February which banned "indecent" on the Internet. The

Communications Decency Act made it a crime, punishable by up to two years in jail, to transmit sexually offensive material which might be accessible to children. But the judges said that the act violated First Amendment guarantees on free speech and was therefore "constitutionally intolerable".

American law becomes, in this case, international law because 60 per cent of the material disseminated on the worldwide computer network

originates inside the United States. It is estimated that 35 million people in 160 countries are linked up to the Internet.

The first major judicial ruling on the boundaries of freedom on the Internet came in response to an appeal against the act by a coalition of on-line service providers, such as Microsoft and America Online, and US pressure groups which felt the government had violated their First Amendment rights. The principal objections to

the act were that it failed adequately to define "indecent", and that it sought to impose the same narrow restrictions on the Internet as existing laws do on American broadcast media.

The act's opponents argued it would be more appropriate if the Internet was granted the wider legal latitude afforded to material that appears in print. They also made the point that laws are already in the statute books imposing limits on obscenity, especially as regards

child pornography, to which users of the Internet were as liable as anybody else.

Heading the anti-act coalition was the American Libraries Association (ALA), many of whose 80,000 member libraries feared that because they had been making their publications available on-line they would expose themselves to the risk of criminal sanction. The ALA argued in court that because of the vagueness in the act adults using the Internet would be lim-

ited to reading books deemed suitable only for young children. The possibility existed not only that *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *Joyce's Ulysses* would be deemed "indecent", but that medical writings on, for example, breast cancer and AIDS would be too.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors figured also among the plaintiffs because they feared material deemed legally suitable in print would be declared criminal on-line, thus presenting them with potential difficulties when transmitting the contents of their publications on the Internet.

The judges were unanimously persuaded that the framers of the US constitution, unprepared as they would have been for cyberspace, would have agreed that the Communications Decency Act went too far.

"Just as the strength of the Internet is chaos," the judges ruled, "so the strength of our liberty depends upon the chaos and cacophony of the unfettered speech the First Amendment protects..." As the most participatory form of mass speech yet developed, the Internet deserves the highest protection from government intrusion.

The government, however, remains determined to intrude. Backed by organisations on the religious right, lawyers representing the government said plans were under to appeal the Philadelphia ruling in the US Supreme Court.

Diva's song of sorrow over missing night

JAMES CUSICK

Memory, as someone once pointed out, is the thing that you forget with. After forgetting to turn up to sing at the Glyndebourne Festival, the promising mezzo soprano Sarah Connolly yesterday said she was sorry.

On Monday night Miss Connolly, 32, should have been at the renowned opera festival to sing the role of Madame Larene in Tchaikovsky's *Yevgeny*



Sarah Connolly: back in role at Glyndebourne

Onegin. Instead she was at her home in west London playing the part of, well, herself.

She had put the wrong date in her diary. The performance was delayed as organisers at the Sussex Downs opera house contacted her understudy, Clarissa Meek, who lives seven miles away. This was complicated because Miss Meek did not at first hear her telephone ringing because she was up a ladder painting the outside of her house. The performance eventually

began 35 minutes late, with Miss Meek in the role. The presence in the audience of Bob Horton, the chairman of Railtrack, might have helped British Rail make the decision to hold the last London train for opera buffs later returning to London.

Yesterday Miss Connolly's agent, Allan Beavis, said "She is very sorry and was very distressed about the whole thing. She has spoken to Glyndebourne and they have been very gracious. She is going to be back for the rest of the run." The next performance is tomorrow, and the run continues until August.

As she looks back on the incident, Miss Connolly might take heart from two sources. The American playwright Eugene O'Neill once wrote what "beastly incidents our memories insist on cherishing... the beautiful things we keep diaries to remember". Having got the performance date wrong, it is unlikely the young diva will forget the consequences of her mistake.

She might also smile, knowing she is not the first to make such an error. On 9 March, 1778, the actor Samuel Reddish was due to play Alonzo in a public performance. He forgot to turn up and the part had to be read by another actor. After the incident the bold Reddish went on stage and apologised. He added to this by issuing an affidavit which confirmed he suffered from forgetfulness. Unfortunately there is no happy end in the Reddish tale; he died in an asylum for the insane.



The pleasure principle: Professors Paul Rozin (left) and Arise founder David Warburton conduct a spot of research

Photograph: Philip Meech

Want to share in the secret of long life? Arise, light up – and tuck in

What would you expect from a new organisation called "Arise"? That it was a re-launch of Sir James Goldsmith's Refinement Party under a new, snappier moniker? Wrong. It involves scientists, medical folk and right-wing philosophers. So, perhaps, you might think it's a self-help group for males suffering impotence: "Can't get it up? Arise!"

Wrong again, if closer. In fact it is an acronym for "Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment", who last night came together for a seminar and – more importantly – a dinner. Earlier some of Arise's luminaries had briefed 20 women's magazines and myself on the seriousness of their intentions. For the organisation has a real mission – to combat "Healthism", described in the press handout as "a new religion".

As Professor David Warburton, Head of Human Psychopharmacology at the

War has been declared on "Healthism" – the theology of the Nineties. David Aaronovitch eats caviar with the generals

University of Reading argued. Healthism (a particularly American disease) is apparently responsible for an explosion of guilt about pleasure. And guilt, as he pointed out, causes stress. And stress leads to death. Thus (I inferred) healthy living can only result in an unexpectedly early death.

Professor Warburton had lots of very impressive charts and diagrams (with lines) to illustrate his thesis, involving endorphins, lymphocytes and decreased killer-cells. For a start there was the one showing that – under laboratory conditions – smokers enjoyed having a cigarette. Yet more new ground was broken with his findings on booze. At the bottom of one slide was the word "beer" with a line leading to "talkative, happy" and the

words "fruit juice" connecting with "monroe". Furthermore, in a study of 34 sufferers from senility, the substitution of lager for their usual cocoa had had dramatic effects on their communicativeness and cognition. Suddenly I wondered whether Gazza and pals knew something the rest of us did not.

Just as scientific, we were told, was the dinner that seminar participants would be enjoying. It had been specially created by chef Albert Roux to exemplify the joys of guilt-free pleasure. The menu was circulated, each course explained thus: "Gourmandise on Chocolate. The practice of eating a sweet dish after a series of savoury dishes reflects our understanding of sensory specific satiety". And so on for the beef, scallops, soufflé, foie gras, petits fours and aperitifs.

Greed? Excess? A load of self-indulgent middle-aged men treading at the expense of (amongst others) Courvoisier, Dunhill Cigars, Nestlé and J&B whisky? Not at all, said Dr Digby Anderson, who describes himself as a sociologist. The sleek and tanned Dr Anderson seemed at first an odd choice for a seminar on "guilt-free pleasure". A regular contributor to the *Daily Mail*, he is the editor of a book devoted to the need to reintroduce shame and stigma into society, entitled *This Will Hurt*. Personally I have always suspected that he is a sociologist like I am a footballer; watching from the terrace, shouting expertise too often ignored by ignorant players and managers.

Clearly I underestimated the man. There were, he insisted, "good reasons for the meal", adding: "It is built on sound principles". It was not to be a swinish free-for-all, but a civilised occasion.

"Eating is a socially policed activity", he explained. One governed by useful rules and norms. I presume he believed that – unlike the activities of homosexuals and teenage lovers, of whom he so disapproves – he and his colleagues would be doing themselves and society good as they gratefully shovelled back the copious quantities of food and drink.

But (dreadful thought) what if he were wrong? What if, last night, at the end of this exquisite meal and an evening's delightful socially policed pontificating, Dr Anderson had been struck down on Park Lane with a massive coronary?

Where would be the pleasure in that?

Killer 'gloated' of guns to PC

Dunblane mass murderer Thomas Hamilton "gloated" as he held a gun and stood over a young woman police constable on her knees scribbling notes about his firearms licence.

PC Anne Anderson, 31, told Day 11 of the Cullen inquiry that she felt slightly intimidated by him. "I just got the feeling that he might have thought he could get some sort of reaction from me, him having these guns."

"I actually remember having to tense down because there was nowhere for me to write. He was standing up and it was as if he was above me. He was sort of gloating, showing me his guns like 'Look what I've got'."

Miss Anderson said she had gone to Hamilton's house in Stirling to carry out a standard inquiry into his application to renew his gun licence in January 1995.

She said she felt uncomfortable as she went through checks on the firearms certificate. "It was the way he looked at me. It's very difficult to put it into words."

When she returned to the police station she told a colleague that Hamilton had had a "strange and odd affect" on her. A check with criminal intelligence records threw up one piece of information on Hamilton but it was only three lines referring to his attempt to set up boys' clubs in the Bonnockburn area near Stirling.

She considered it irrelevant because it had nothing to do with his firearms certificate.

Miss Anderson said she felt happier after speaking to Detective Inspector John Anderson (no relation). "I was told they knew of him (Hamilton). Reports had gone in about him and there was nothing that I could do to stop him (obtaining his new gun licence)."

Mr Bonomy asked what she would have done had she seen a criminal intelligence report on Hamilton and activities with young males. It said he should be considered a "serious youth worker" and said he had been the subject of police interest in the past and had vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Miss Anderson said she would have probably got in touch with her supervisor.

Colin Campbell QC for the parents asked how she could have completed a form that said Hamilton was a suitable person to possess guns. She replied: "On the basis that he had no previous convictions, that he is known to a JP who had known him for a long time and there was basically nothing to stop him having a firearms certificate."

She went on: "At the end of the day, it was a feeling that I had and basically I can't stop someone getting a firearms certificate because I have a bad feeling."

DAILY POEM

A Bowl of Warm Air

By Moniza Alvi

Someone is falling towards you
as an apple falls from a branch,
moving slowly, impressible as if
into a new, political epoch,
or excitedly like a dog towards a bone.
He is holding in both hands
everything he knows he has –
a bowl of warm air.
He has sighted you from afar
as if you were a dramatic crooked tree
on the horizon and he has seen you close up
like the underside of a mushroom.
But he cannot open you like a newspaper
or put you down like a newspaper.

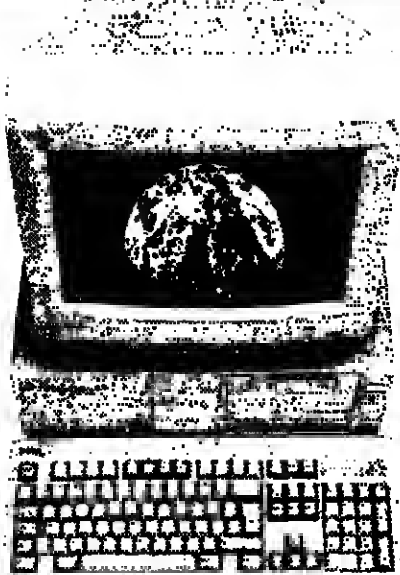
And you are satisfied that he is veering towards you
and that he is adjusting his speed
and that the sun and the wind and rain are in front of him
and the sun and the wind and the rain are behind him.

Moniza Alvi was born in Lahore, Pakistan, but moved with her family to Britain at a young age. Belonging in two places, to two cultures and to two ways of seeing has infused her poetry with a gentle mystical surrealism. This is the title poem of her second collection, *A Bowl of Warm Air*, published by Oxford University Press at £6.99.

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Planets orbit 'red dwarf' star

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Correspondent

Lalande 21185, a star almost so close to the Sun that it is a neighbour in galactic terms, has two planets orbiting it - the closest that such bodies have been found, new research suggests.

The dim "red dwarf" star is the fourth closest to the Earth. It is 200 times less bright than the Sun, has only one-third of its mass and lies slightly more than eight light-years away. Previously, it had been thought that the nearest stars apart from the Sun to have planets were at least 40 light years away. "We're pretty sure that there's something there, but it's a little early to say exactly what," according to George Gatewood, who told a meeting this week of the American Astronomical Society in Wisconsin, of his discovery. The analysis suggests that there are two planets orbiting the star, each roughly the size of Jupiter - the heaviest planet in our solar system. Professor Gatewood calculated that one circles Lalande 21185 every 30 years at a distance of about 900 million miles (about the same distance as Saturn) and the other lies closer, a few hundred million miles from the star, orbiting it every six years.

Other stars have been pinpointed as having orbiting planets, but never so close. Last October, astronomers reckoned they had detected one around 51 Pegasi, 40 light years away, and in January spotted variations in the behaviour of Beta Pictoris, 50 light years away. "These are the first ones that are really like our solar system," said Steve Maran, an astronomer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Professor Gatewood found the planets by tracking the star's motions on the sky down to the object's tiniest twitch. The method is so precise that it could tell if an astronaut on the moon switched a flashlight from one hand to the other.

The planets' existence has not been confirmed by independent astronomers, but Mr Maran said the results suggest planets are the most likely explanation for the star's movements.



Fisheye: Sally Reynolds examines an exhibit at the £5m National Sealife Centre in Brindleyplace, Birmingham. The centre opens to the public this weekend

Photograph: David Burner

Lawyers 'poor' at handling complaints

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

The Law Society's handling of complaints against solicitors is so poor that it risks losing the right to regulate the profession, the legal services watchdog warned yesterday in a scathing report.

Michael Barnes, the Legal Services Ombudsman, spotlighted the society's own research showing that two-thirds of those complaining to the semi-independent Solicitors Complaints Bureau remained "very dissatisfied", and declared that "something fundamental" was wrong with the system. Barristers were almost as bad, living a "blinkered existence", unaware of the distress caused to clients by brusque treatment.

But as far as continuing self-regulation is concerned it is solicitors who are drinking in the

legal equivalent of the last chance saloon.

Launching the fifth Legal Services Ombudsman report since the office was set up in 1991, Mr Barnes accused solicitors of adopting a "legalistic and defensive stance" when faced with complaints instead of settling them quickly if they

were at all justified. "This may be the Law Society's last chance to get complaints handling right. If further research in a few years' time shows that not much has changed, the pressure for a completely independent, one-stop, complaints system is likely to become irresistible."

Under the system aggrieved

clients must first complain to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, or for barristers the General Council of the Bar, and for licensed conveyancers the Council for Licensed Conveyancers.

If they are not satisfied they can complain to the Ombudsman who investigates the handling of the complaint and may

also investigate the original matter giving rise to it. During 1995 complaints to Mr Barnes rose by 31 per cent compared to the previous year.

Mr Barnes called for the system of "rebukes" to be replaced by fines if the public were to have confidence that the procedure were not biased in

favour of solicitors. All lawyers should also give adequate warning about the risks of embarking on litigation at the outset.

He warns would-be clients to take "particular care" when placing instructions with solicitors who claim expertise in foreign property transactions. All lawyers should take care

not to assume a "professional superiority", while barristers "must accept liability for distress and inconvenience caused to lay clients by the unacceptably late return of a brief".

Mr Barnes recommended payment of compensation of between a few hundred to more than £5,000 by the lawyers involved in 72 of the cases referred to him, and of between £50 and £500 by the professional body in a further 56. He recommended that the professional body reconsider the complaint in 71 cases. Criticism was recorded in a further 70 cases. Mr Barnes decided to take no action in a further 842 investigations.

A Law Society spokesman said: "Give us a chance. We are improving and the bureau is to be launched at the end of the summer." *Fifth Annual Report of the Legal Services Ombudsman 1995.* £8.25 from HMSO.

Ombudsman swamped by surge of grievances

Solicitor K offered Mrs J investment advice and retained £4,000 commission without her consent. The Solicitors Complaints Bureau said it was his word against hers. In fact, solicitors have to provide proof of consent. The Ombudsman recommended that Mr K pay Mrs J £4,000, plus £800 for unnecessary legal charges and £200 for the inconvenience caused.

Dr G wanted to buy an £80,000 cottage in France. Solicitor P claimed

expertise, but sought a £275 increase on an agreed fixed fee of £500 and proved unable to interpret French legal documents. He asked for a further £100 to provide a translation. The Bureau declined to take any action. While Dr G had not lost any money, he lost confidence in Mr P and felt he had to instruct other solicitors.

The Ombudsman recommended compensation of £250.

Solicitor G had acted on behalf of Miss E's late aunt. Miss E complained that Mr G had not informed her aunt that he would be charging for his services but gave the impression that he was acting as a favour to her husband. The Bureau insisted there had been no breach of the Law Society's professional standards on costs, but the Ombudsman found there was no evidence on file to suggest costs had been discussed at all. The £2,500 that Mr G charged meant an unexpected decrease in the value of the

estate. £400 compensation was recommended.

Barrister Y was advising Mr H on his divorce. Miss Y returned her brief for a hearing when she had known for some time that she might not be able to represent Mr H owing to commitments in another case. Mr H's distress was exacerbated by the "complacent attitude" of the replacement barrister. The Ombudsman recommended that both barristers each pay Mr H £500.

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politics

Dentist pay deal bridges gap in NHS treatment

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

A Government boost to NHS dental services for children has provided a new climate for attempting to rescue the shrinking dentistry service for adults, the British Dental Association (BDA) said yesterday.

The package, however, which brings to an end a four-year-old pay dispute with Britain's 16,000 dentists, means that children will initially take a greater share of the NHS dental service, at the expense of treatment for adults.

"On its own, this won't bring anybody who has quit the NHS back in," John Renshaw, the vice-chairman of the BDA's General Dental Services Committee said. "But it will allow some of the people still there to carry on a bit longer. The best we can hope for is that it will slow the rate of exit."

But it would allow new negotiations in a more positive atmosphere over adult services where fees and allowances remain inadequate, he said.

Under the package the Government has written off £250m it claimed dentists owed them for doing too much work under a new contract which came into effect in 1990. That led the

BDA to advise dentists in 1992 not to take on new patients. As a result a third of patients nationally and half of those in the south-east, south-west and in East Anglia have found it difficult or impossible to find NHS dental treatment as more and more dentists have gone private.

Under yesterday's deal, dentists will be paid fees for fillings and extractions in children on top of a payment per head aimed at encouraging preventative care. As a result the children's share of NHS dentistry will rise from 18 to 26 per cent, the association said, helping in particular those children from deprived areas with serious dental problems.

The money will come out of adult services, partly by cutting the registration period from 24 months to 15 months – a move that will save £25m a year. As it takes effect, it will see almost 5 million patients having to reapply to stay with their NHS dentist or find another if they have not been for a check-up in the 15 month period.

In addition, prior approval will be needed more often before dentists carry out complex work such as crowns and bridges. The details of that have yet to be agreed but it is

aimed at cutting £10m off the £200m currently spent on such treatment.

In the longer term, legislation to allow pilot schemes under which health authorities will buy in dental services will be introduced after the autumn. More immediately, a limited scheme will allow about 20 health authorities to bid for £40,000 grants to deal with local shortages of dentists. That, however, was described as "chickenfeed" by Mr Renshaw.

Announcing his "new agenda" for NHS dentistry, Gerald Malone, the Minister for Health, said he hoped it would "do much to end uncertainty and provide an atmosphere of stability and security for the dental profession." He added: "It creates a firm foundation for future work."

He recognised, he said, that there were "localised problems of accessibility" and hoped the ending of the pay dispute would lead to more dentists accepting NHS patients.

Henry McLeish, Labour's health spokesman, said the package still failed "to ensure the right of all sections of the community in all parts of the country to comprehensive NHS dental care".



Open wide: Private treatment or NHS – the view stays the same Photograph: Geraint Lewis

Concessions open door for Divorce Bill

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

The bitterly contested Divorce Bill was finally in sight of Commons approval last night after Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, made a series of concessions which nevertheless leave the central principle of the measure intact.

After a day of high level negotiations which included contacts between Lord Mackay and Lord Irvine, his opposite number in the Lords, the Shadow Cabinet kept ministers in suspense by saying they might not decide their final stance until the third reading on Monday.

But there were growing signs last night that the Labour Party will support the bill. MPs were told to expect a three-line whip on Monday and leader Tony Blair said the party's decision should be taken solely on the bill's merit and not on the grounds of the "massive political blow" it would inflict on the Government.

If Labour do back the bill – which removes the concept of fault from divorce – it will mean Lord Mackay's struggle to win a consensus should finally pay off despite the prospect of a substantial revolt by right wing Tories against it.

Most of the concessions to be published today lean towards Opposition demands and the Lord Chancellor is not expected to grant a substantive

amendment sought by Edward Leigh, one of the leading right wing campaigners against the bill, for exemptions from the new law for those with deeply held religious convictions.

The concessions made last night include:

No "presumption" in favour of mediation rather than legal proceedings between estranged couples. Although the Government had favoured mediation over damaging court battles, it is now even-handed between mediation and the courts.

Government approval for an amendment tabled by the Tory MP, Sir Jim Lester, ensuring that the three-month "reconciliation period" will now be included in the maximum 18-month cooling off period before divorce rather than outside it – which could have meant a wait of up to 21 months for a divorce to go through.

Allowing a woman who has suffered domestic violence to be represented by a third party – possibly the police or another party – in proceedings.

The right of representation for children involved in divorce cases in certain circumstances.

Lord Mackay, asked yesterday whether he thought the bill would now be approved said: "I am not a prophet. But I regard myself as having done my very best to discharge my responsibilities to maintain the principles of the bill while taking into account the amendments."

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Civil Service net is cast wider

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

An attempt to broaden the base from which the highest-flying civil servants are recruited was launched by the Government yesterday amid limited evidence that recent new recruits are slightly less Oxbridge dominated than they were.

Whitehall is attempting both to cut the huge number of applicants to its accelerated stream while encouraging higher quality candidates from a wider range of institutions. It is also to place more emphasis on numerical and scientific skills.

Good applicants from a wider range of universities are to be encouraged by extensive advertising, the despatch of recent recruits to meet university students and a video showing that the civil service is no longer the "brolly and bowler hat brigade", according to David Willetts, the Minister for Public Services.

To cut back on hopeless applications, a paper and computer-based self-assessment questionnaire is being made available to allow candidates to assess their suitability, after 12,600 applications were received last year, just 267 of

which were recommended for appointment to the 246 vacancies.

The Government had no quotas, Mr Willetts said, adding that it was "no crime" to be an Oxford-educated white male. But it was interested in "attracting the best from all backgrounds". Recent research has shown an image problem for the civil service among undergraduates, with students at other universities seeing the fast stream as an exclusively Oxbridge preserve.

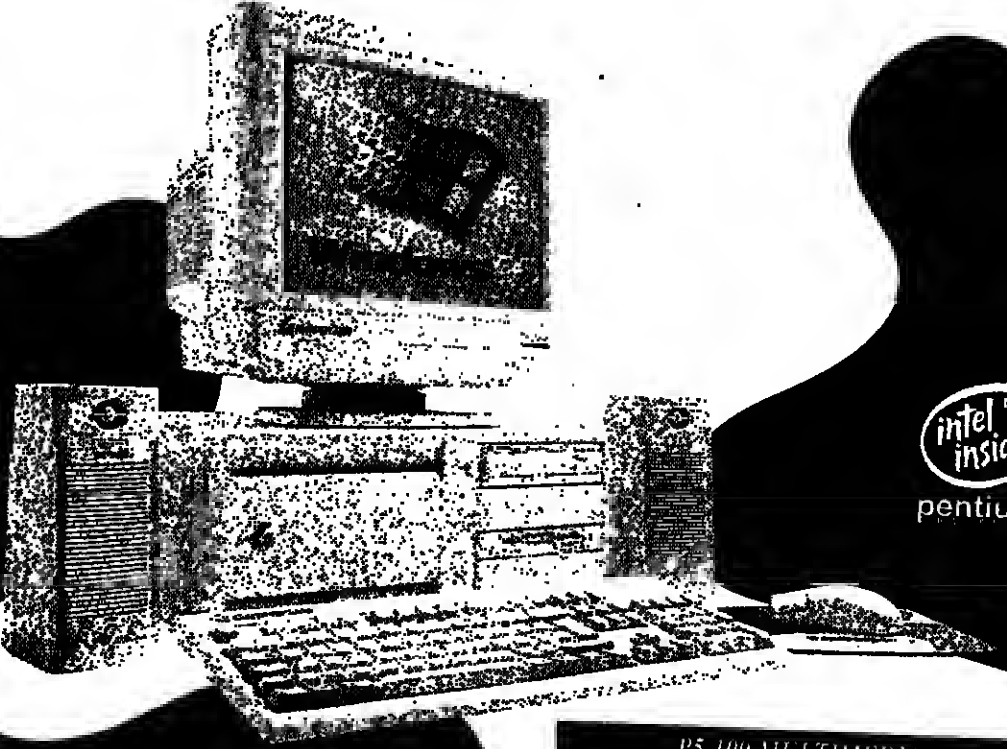
Last year, Oxbridge accounted for 59 per cent of all fast stream recruits, including

specialists, but among generalists – the traditional policy makers – the proportion was down to 52 per cent from 58 per cent in 1993. Forty-one per cent were women, 6 per cent from ethnic minorities.

Change was needed to answer recruitment competition from business and the City and also in recognition that the civil service no longer recruited people for life, Mr Willetts said.

"We need to be sure we are fishing in the whole pool. We will have a problem if we remain overdependent on one or two sources for recruits."

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Tories step in to prescribe teacher training

Judith Judd finds that Ministers are about to rewrite the rule book on what is taught in class

Ministers are to prescribe teaching methods in detail for the first time. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, announced yesterday.

She said that all new primary teachers would in future have to learn how to teach English and maths in ways approved by the Government.

Her statement came on the eve of a White Paper which will show that Britain is falling behind other countries in literacy and numeracy.

Her decision is a victory for traditionalists who have long argued that teacher training departments are to blame for sloppy and trendy teaching in schools.

Under new rules, new teachers will have to be taught to use approved methods. Mrs Shephard said these would include phonics, matching letters to sounds, to teach reading, mental arithmetic for maths and whole-class teaching.

The new national curriculum for teacher training will apply at first only to primary teaching and to English and maths, and may be extended later to other subjects and to secondary training.

She said the Government may not need legislation to make the regulations to impose the new measures. "It is a whole step forward. It is a different ball game. If we have a situation where 46 per cent of newly qualified teachers can say they don't feel equipped to deal with the challenges of the classroom, then there needs to be more prescription."

A new framework would also be drawn up to train existing teachers. Details of the framework and the new curriculum will be disclosed in September. The actual percentage of time teachers must spend teaching the whole class may be specified, Mrs Shephard said.



Learning mode: Student teachers during training lessons at Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln yesterday Photograph: John Angerson/Gazette

She briefed journalists on a series of measures the Government was taking to improve standards. Earlier she denied on BBC Radio 4 that yesterday's announcement had been prompted by complaints from right-wingers that she is not being tough enough on Labour.

Headteachers warned the Government not to tell teachers how to teach. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We support the need to reform teacher training. But any attempt by the Government to impose particular teacher training methods will be resisted."

Some teachers gave the announcement a guarded welcome. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said the decision was long overdue and would be supported by most teachers.

"The great majority of teachers are very different from the trendy Wendy woolly jumper people - they exist but they are in a small minority."

He blamed the Government for procrastinating over teaching methods and for listening to advisers, inspectors and administrators.

Earlier, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector for Schools, continued his crusade against progressive teaching methods at a Confederation for British Industry conference.

Too many teachers believed the progressive "nonsense" that "we should encourage children to make decisions and choices

before they have been taught something about that which they are deciding on choosing between".

Professors and pundits hailed such "thinking" as the pinnacle of good practice.

"Let's be crystal clear about

what we want from our schools and implacable in our determination to root out those specious ideas which impede progress."

Mrs Shephard told the conference that a skills audit to be published in today's Competi-

tiveness White Paper shows that Britain scores well on higher education and IT skills but badly on literacy and numeracy and in some key work-related skills.

The paper compares Britain with France, Germany, Singapore and the United States.

When learning is just a game

FRAN ABRAMS

Jo is concentrating hard on a solitary game called "Jumping Bugs" and Rebecca's group is arranging dominoes into patterns. Meanwhile, Chris is proudly displaying some games she has made up herself. This is maths with a difference.

What marks it out, of course, is the fact that Jo, Rebecca and Chris have long since left primary school. Now they are in the second year of a teacher-training course at Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln. In a few weeks' time they will try out their games on some real pupils and will write essays on whether they met their aims.

"It's extending the children, rather than time-filling," Chris explains. "It isn't arithmetic but it's arithmetical thinking. It's a way of making the children think more logically."

Students here have little time for Gillian Shephard's planned reform of teacher training, which is partly aimed at squeezing out the child-centred teaching methods they are learning. Every pupil is an individual, they argue, and this kind of lesson caters for differing needs as well as being great fun.

In a recent teaching practice session Peter Wilkes, a fourth-year student, gave all his pupils

Argos catalogues and asked them to decide what they would like to buy if they had £50 to spend. It was basic arithmetic, he says, but the children enjoyed it far more than they would have done if he had simply stood at the front and lectured.

Peter says he uses a great deal of the "whole class" teaching that ministers and advisers want to see increased, but it is interspersed with group sessions and is filled with chances for the children to participate.

This college is regarded as one of England's finest. The schools inspection body Ofsted, visited a year ago and was impressed. The maths in particular was said to be very good, and students learned a wide range of professional skills. English was good too, though the students' knowledge and understanding of language was sometimes deficient.

The principal, Professor Leonard Marsh, says it turns out teachers who can employ both traditional and modern methods. But the image of teacher training institutions as bastions of 1960s liberalism remains, and sometimes puts him at a disadvantage. "People expect me to have sandals, long hair, two earrings and a nose ring. Instead, I have a multiplication table chart," he says.

Vocational A-levels marked 'erratically'

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Vocational A-levels are often time-consuming and unreliable, and many teachers lack the skills and confidence to teach them properly, according to an Ofsted report due out today.

The latest criticism of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), introduced in 1991, will fuel fears that Sir Ron Dearing's planned reforms of 16 to 19-year-olds' education will have to be delayed.

Ofsted, the national schools inspection body, found that students' work was often marked inconsistently. Right-wingers have argued for years that the exams, which are both set and marked by teachers, are bound to lead to problems.

Although some improvements have been made since ministers announced plans to reform GNVQs two years ago, the report says marking is still inconsistent and that much

of the teachers' training is irrelevant.

Inspectors who visited more than 60 sixth forms between autumn 1995 and spring 1996 found that teachers' marking of students' work was often erratic. Assessment, in which students compile portfolios of "evidence" of their skills under the teachers' guidance, was burdensome and unreliable, they said. Teachers frequently had to mark the same piece of work several times.

After marking, work is checked by a second teacher in the same school. External examiners visit about once a term, though this varies, to look at a sample of work. The inspectors found that many of the teachers who ran courses - including health and social care, leisure and tourism and manufacturing - lacked confidence in teaching compulsory language and numeracy.

Their training often focused on specific vocational areas

rather than on the broader ones covered by GNVQs and was often largely irrelevant to their needs.

Sir Ron's report aimed to bring GNVQs and A levels closer together so that vocational qualifications achieved a higher status. A GNVQ is meant to be equivalent to two A-levels but many parents still prefer their children to take academic qualifications. Ministers may feel that Sir Ron's aims will be difficult to meet while a question mark hangs over standards in GNVQs.

John Hillier, chief executive of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, said areas of weakness had already been identified and £10m was being spent on addressing them. A report to be published in September would show that up to 80 per cent of teachers were able to judge evidence effectively and three-quarters of assessment work was satisfactory or better, he said.

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Thursday

20 June

arts news

edited by David Lister

Book world: As publishers cut back and banks crack down, 'mid-list' authors turn to literary charities for record £468,000 in aid

Happy endings
hard to find for
destitute writersCHRIS MOWBRAY and
MARIANNE MACDONALD

Formerly successful professional authors are facing serious financial hardship because their advances from publishers, on which they have to live while completing a work, are being cut by as much as a third.

At the same time the writers' banks are renegeing on previously agreed lending arrangements and demanding a reduction in their overdrafts.

Authors most affected are those on what is known as the "mid-list" - writers with four or five published works to their credit who have never been best-sellers but have formerly earned a comfortable living.

The problem has become so acute that the Royal Literary Fund, Britain's oldest and largest literary charity, has handed out a record £468,000 to destitute writers in the past year - more than three times the annual figure during the late 1980s.

The fund, which was founded in 1790, and which has helped some of the greatest names in English literature including Samuel Taylor Coleridge, James Joyce, Angus Wilson and Joseph Conrad, does not divulge the names of people receiving help.

But the secretary of the charity, Fiona Clark, said those applying for grants this year included a number of well-known names, and the average age of applicants was falling.

"The public perception is of published authors receiving huge advances, but this only happens to a small number of writers, and the majority are not having an easy time," she added.

As well as the reduction in advances and the increasing toughness of the banks there is the problem of staff turnover in publishing houses. Some authors find that when the editor they normally deal with leaves,

the successor is less keen on their work.

"We have had 150 serious applications for help during the past 12 months, but there were many others we could not consider at all because they were not of recognised literary merit. Others did not proceed because they were too proud to give us details of their personal finances."

A number of factors have plunged the book world into difficulties including the end of the Net Book Agreement (NBA), which set fixed retail prices, and the amalgamation of various publishing houses.

Great advances



Barbara Taylor Bradford: £1.7m for three-book deal with Harper Collins

Jeffrey Archer: estimated £2.2m three-book deal with Harper Collins

Martin Amis (above): £500,000 two-book deal with Harper Collins

Michael Ridpath: £1m for first novel, *Born To Trade*, from Heinemann

Edwina Currie: £200,000 for first novel, *A Parliamentary Affair*, from Hodder and Stoughton

Naomi Campbell: £100,000 for first novel, *Swan*, from Orion

Alan Hollinghurst, short-listed for the 1994 Booker Prize for *The Folding Star*, helped assess applications for financial help made by writers to another literary organisation, the Society of Authors.

"A lot of people who have successfully published a series of novels are now finding it harder," he said. "But not everybody remains interesting and publishable. Behind this is the assumption that people keep turning out books of a consistent quality. Some writers go off."

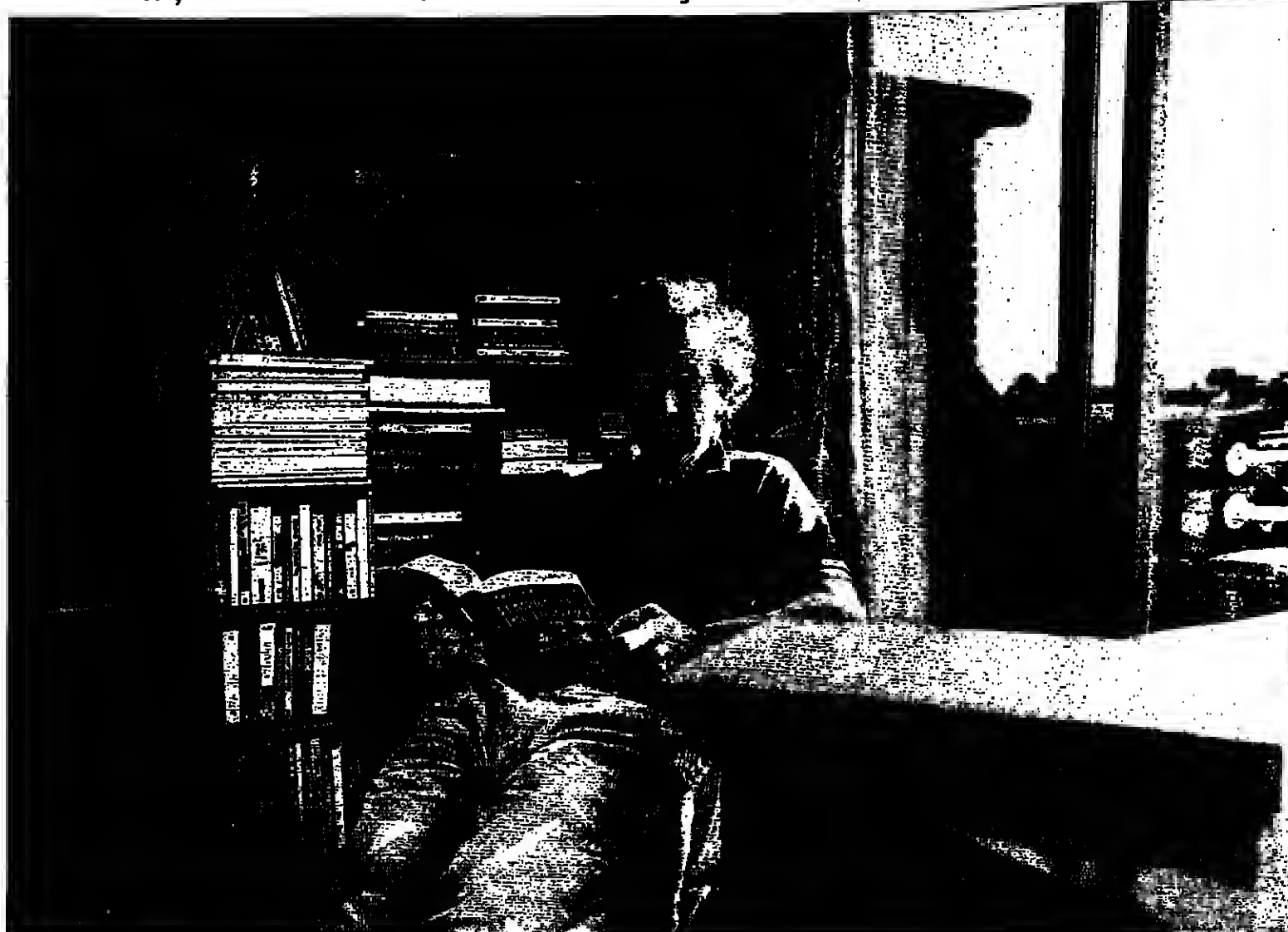
Patrick Janson-Smith, publisher of Transworld, which includes the Bantam and Black Swan imprints, said the "journeymen authors" had been worst hit. "There's a lot of authors in this post-NBA madness because there's a greater concentration on fewer books."

"Certain writers are finding it very difficult to get published full stop. There's a middle list which is getting whittled away hit by hit because the publishers can't support it."

But the squeeze on the middle ranks has benefited the high-fliers. Christopher Sinclair Stevenson, the agent and publisher who co-runs MSS, an advisory literary agency, said:

"While the less-established authors get less and less, the big authors are getting as much or more." An average first novelist might easily get only £2,000, he said, and perhaps just double that for a second novel if the first did not sell well. While one of the first novels which periodically electrify the publishing industry - *The Horse Whisperer* - is a good example - can command an advance of £100,000 and above.

Around 3,000 writers a year are therefore going it alone and publishing their own books from the front rooms of their homes. Their efforts have taken the official number of registered British publishers to record a level of more than 30,000.



Driven to success: Jonathan Mantle with his latest offering, *Car Wars*, which has been sold in 13 countries

Photograph: David Sandison

Author who finds history a good back-up

DAVID LISTER

Jonathan Mantle's success as an author is one that many would envy. His biographies of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jeffrey Archer were big sellers. His latest work *Car Wars*, a blockbuster history of the post-war world through the rise of the automobile companies, has been sold in 13 countries.

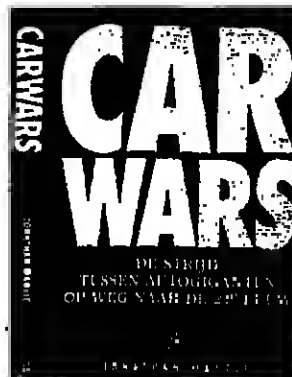
Yet Mr Mantle also has a day job, writing histories for insurance companies and other businesses. His case illustrates the financial unpredictability of even a successful author, yet he is scathing of fellow authors who complain about their plight. He sees a profession that contains its fair share of the unworldly and the disingenuous.

"I would like to point out

that commercial writing is a gamble. Most authors and most publishers know this, and it's a very nice way to make a living. But people tend to forget this when they are negotiating their next book. Authors are very disingenuous. It's a hangover from the late eighties, when they were paid enormous sums for writing newspaper articles."

Most authors, he agrees, need a second job. He has been writing company histories for eight years. Yet many authors will not accept the need for a second job.

The argument over advances is, he claims, a complete red herring. "Those who complain most are the ones who are paid too much in the first place," he maintains. "But it is a red herring because the real question



The write stuff: Sales rather than advances count

is how effectively they publish and market your book. It's the sales, not the advances, that make the real money. There is often no correlation anyway

between advances and sales. Mr Mantle's Jeffrey Archer book had a very low advance, of £3,000, yet it made nearly six figures.

"It's the incompetence of British publishers that handicap authors, not the diminishing level of advances," he claims. "My book, *Car Wars*, was published by Macmillan. During the publication process the publishers were taken over, the list was halved and I couldn't find the book anywhere. Macmillan handed me back the UK rights to the book for nothing, they were so embarrassed."

The real money, he adds, can often come off the back of successful books rather than from the books themselves. "When my books have made money, I've made far more

money out of related journalism, as I am then seen as 'the expert' on the subject, he says. "A lot of authors are suddenly and conveniently very unworldly."

The solution to writers' financial problems does not lie in bigger advances, he claims. "Indeed leading fiction author Brian Moore refuses to accept advances, preferring to have real income defined by real sales. The solution, says Mr Mantle, lies in publishers becoming more efficient in the marketing of books, and in authors accepting that they will normally need other jobs."

"I'm the only known commercial author in this country who writes company histories," he says. "A lot of authors are suddenly and conveniently very unworldly."

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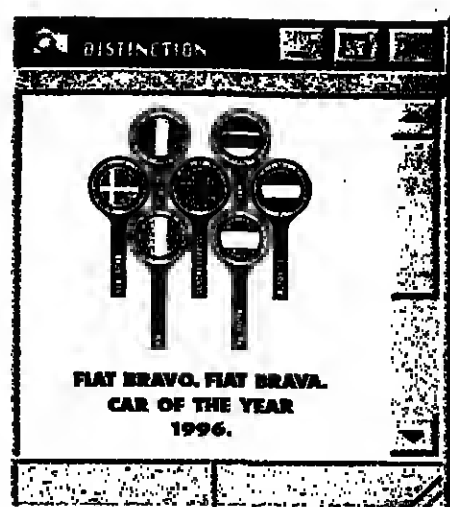
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US says troops may have to stay in Bosnia

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

The US Defense Secretary, William Perry, has given the strongest indication yet that Washington is prepared to see US ground troops stay on in Bosnia, should political instability render it impossible for the Nato peace-keeping force to pull out in December, as scheduled.

Speaking during a visit to Skopje, capital of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Mr Perry made it clear that no decision had been taken. But the Alliance would not simply "give up on the investment" that it had made in Bosnia.

The White House yesterday insisted that President Bill Clinton plans to stick with his timetable of basing US peace-keeping troops in Bosnia for "about a year".

A spokesman, Mike McCurry, said the US was not considering any future Nato-led mission there. But at the same time, Mr Perry was indicating that if Nato chose to stay, then the US should take part in the operation, "including ground troops, including whatever is determined".

Mr Perry's remarks, which were delivered just before today's meeting of Nato defence ministers in Brussels, lifted the lid off a topic which has been publicly shunned by both the European allies and Washing-

ton, for fear of turning it into a controversy in the US presidential campaign. And, taken with the recent statements of other senior American officials, they suggest that however unwelcome the prospect is, the administration is resigned to the fact that an extended Nato presence may be unavoidable.

From the outset, the 1995 Dayton peace accords were tailored to minimise the political risk to President Clinton, ensuring that the 18,000 US troops would remain in Bosnia until well after the vote on 5 November, ensuring no flare-up of fighting during the campaign. By and large, the strategy has worked.

US casualties have been very few, an uneasy peace has been kept and Bosnia has not featured in the campaign, not least because Mr Clinton's Republican opponent, Bob Dole, supported the deployment of US forces.

But, indirectly, the argument has resurfaced, as the US has exerted strong pressure for Bosnia's first post-war elections to be held on schedule by 14 September, even though the conditions stipulated by Dayton, including a free press, an end to human rights abuses and the return of refugees to their homes, have not been met. The Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, who have been indicted for war crimes, are still at large.

Despite the US argument that the elections will help to rebuild Bosnia, several of Washington's allies, as well as the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE), the body supervising progress towards elections, believe Bosnia is not ready. Washington's stance, they suspect, is driven by domestic politics.

Hence Mr Perry's gambit, designed to show that the US will not demand adherence to the Dayton timetable. Some diplomats here believe it was timed for the meeting in Florence of parties to the Bosnian conflict, at which the elections will be a dominant theme.

According to Mr Perry, the continued presence of US and other Nato ground troops is only one post-December option to be considered. Others include the continued threat of massive Nato airpower to preserve the peace, or the deployment of a rapid-reaction force close by, but not necessarily on Bosnian soil. "These are questions which will be looked at seriously this autumn," he said.

On Tuesday, the top State Department official for Europe, John Kornblum, who co-ordinates US policy on Bosnia, also hinted that the allies might have to extend their peacekeeping duties.

He said it "is possible, even likely" that other missions would be necessary after the 1-For mandate expires.



Blanket protection: The Mafia boss Giuseppe Ferro, one of three charged with bombings in Florence, Rome and Milan in 1993, is wheeled into court in Palermo, Sicily, yesterday where the trial started under heavy security. Photograph: AFP

UN may be forced into Haiti pull-out

PHIL DAVISON
Miami
DAVID USBORNE
New York

The United Nations may be blocked by China from extending its peace-keeping operations in Haiti beyond this month, despite signs that the country may be on the brink of another eruption of political violence.

Any collapse of the democratisation process in Haiti would be a grave setback for President Bill Clinton before the US presidential elections. The restoration of peace to Haiti, which began with a military invasion in October 1994, has become a jewel in his foreign policy crown.

But unless agreement is reached inside the UN Security Council by 30 June on extending the authority of the UN mission in Haiti, the Secretary-General, Boutros-Ghali, will be obliged to order the immediate withdrawal of all 1,800 remaining blue helmets.

Most Western diplomats believe that pulling out of Haiti prematurely could have disastrous consequences for the country and its efforts to establish democracy following its military dictatorship. Advisers to Mr Boutros-Ghali recently proposed maintaining the mission into next year.

The UN took over from the US military in March last year, with an initial force of 6,000 peace-keepers, including 2,400 Americans who have now withdrawn. When the force numbers had to be drastically reduced earlier this year because of Chinese pressure, Canada agreed to send an additional 750 soldiers at its own expense. They are unlikely to stay if the UN mission ends.

Diplomats in New York fear a diplomatic clash later this month when the Security Council takes up the issue. China's opposition stems from an objection to Haiti's long-standing friendship with Taiwan, with which it has full diplomatic relations.

In an effort at compromise, Mr Boutros-Ghali this week proposed replacing the UN deployment with a reduced force of 1,200 troops, plus a contingent of 300 civilian policemen. The number of soldiers would be cut to 1,000 after three months.

The Haitian President, René Préval, who took over from Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February, had asked Mr Boutros

Ghali to extend the UN mandate, citing a plot to destabilise the country.

Mr Préval, who is winding up a trip to Europe to seek badly-needed investment, said the fledgling Haitian police force was struggling to cope with a wave of violence which could get worse if the UN troops withdrew.

The President says the continued UN presence is vital to maintain the stability he needs to stimulate the economy. Despite the US intervention to restore democracy, Haiti remains the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, driving many to sail on leaky boats in the hope of slipping in to the US.

Seventy-two Haitians were brought ashore in Florida last week after a rickety boat ran aground. Most will be returned home. Almost 700 Haitians have been intercepted so far this year by the US Coastguard. Unless they can make a legitimate claim to political asylum, rather than economic hardship, the Coastguard unloads them at the harbour of the capital, Port-au-Prince, gives them a couple of dollars for a meal and tells them not to try again. Out of desperation, many do.

The previous Haitian police, disbanded after the 1994 US intervention, were a branch of the military, headed by army officers, and traditionally worked hand-in-hand with the dreaded Tontons Macoutes militia.

During the past month, five police officers and a town mayor or have been killed. After the mayor of Champsolme, Eria Jean-Francois, was shot dead, an angry mob stormed the police station and backed to death seven prisoners at random.

Officials say most recent killings were by armed gangs which resurfaced after the last US troops left the country earlier this year, leaving security in the hands of police backed by blue helmets.

Diplomats are split as to whether the gang supports Mr Aristide, a former radical priest still by far the most popular man in Haiti, or is made up of ex-soldiers and Tontons Macoutes.

Police in Port-au-Prince said former army chief Prosper Avril, a collaborator of ex-dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, was on a list of people suspected of plotting to destabilise Mr Préval's government. Mr Avril fled to the Colombian embassy during the US intervention but quietly returned home recently.

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Russian poll: Peking would prefer victory to go to the erratic president rather than the China-loving but unknown Zyuganov



Northern exposure: People voting in the Yamal peninsula, on the shores of the Arctic, 2,300km from Moscow. They vote early because of the remoteness of the region; the rest of Russia votes on Sunday

Photograph: AP

China feels 'comfortable' with win for Boris Yeltsin

STEVE CRAWSHAW
Peking
PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Chinese officials say the government in Peking would feel more comfortable if Boris Yeltsin, the apostate Communist, remains in the Kremlin, than if he is replaced by a Communist true believer.

The Chinese privately emphasise they do not want Mr Yeltsin's Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, to edge the Russian leader out in Sunday's presidential election. Officials said: "We are more familiar with Boris Yeltsin, and we have good relations. His visit to Peking went well. Zyuganov is unknown, for us. We don't know what he might do."

A paradox is thus created where a headline Communist government explicitly stakes its money on a non-Communist politician against a Communist. Mr Yeltsin is no stranger to the vagaries of pragmatic politics: he was in the Communist Party for years and was a Politburo member until he quarrelled with Mikhail Gorbachev, then the Communist Party leader.

The Chinese have always been pragmatic in their dealings with foreign leaders. They scorn Mr Yeltsin's economics, arguing that their own version of the economic revolution has been much more successful than Russia's chaotic and mafia-dominated rush towards the market. But they like the fact

that Mr Yeltsin does not seek to lecture them on how they should conduct their affairs. Both sides are keen to leave human rights (the Tiananmen massacre, on the one hand, and the war in Chechnya, on the other) out of any discussions. For both sides, business merely means business.

For the Russian Communists, the Chinese rebuff is none the less embarrassing. Mr Zyuganov and his Communist-nationalist coalition cite China as a country which has modernised its economy, attracting plenty of investment without bringing about the collapse of Communism. His senior aides, who hanker after the restoration of the Soviet Union, tend to quote the Chinese as an example of how a country can evolve slowly away from Marxist-Leninism, and still keep its basic structures intact.

That China has a rigid one-party system and a dismal human-rights record does not appear to alarm them. But they will not like the fact that their Peking counterparts have far less faith in them than they do in the Chinese, not least because they are trying to convince a highly sceptical outside world that they understand something about economics.

Chinese officials share the assessment of many Western observers of the election, that Mr Zyuganov could win the first round but that Mr Yeltsin is the favourite for the run-off three weeks later.

Stalin's French strategy

Paris — If Churchill had not opened the second front in Normandy when he did, the Soviet Union would have invaded France, Stalin told Maurice Thorez, leader of the French Communist Party, in 1947, during a secret meeting in Moscow, writes Mary Dejevsky.

Minutes of the meeting, which have been in Russian archives for 50 years, have been seen by Stéphane Courtois, a French historian and specialist on Communism who prints a transcript in his journal, *Com-*

muniste; excerpts are published today in the magazine *l'Evenement du Jeudi*.

On being told of the Red Army's plans in 1944, Thorez responded: "The British and Americans disembarked in France less to destroy Germany than to take up positions in Western Europe." He then told Stalin the French "would have received the Red Army with enthusiasm" and that de Gaulle would not have existed, to which Stalin added: "De Gaulle would have left."

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Landmark for Los Angeles: Spanish architect wins \$50m contract to design replacement for one of city's oldest buildings

'Murder' of an old cathedral

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

No one claims that St Vibiana's cathedral in Los Angeles is an architectural jewel. It was slapped together in four years from cheap materials and is an "architecturally inferior, rather poor replica" of a 17th century Spanish baroque church in Barcelona, at least according to archdiocese spokesman, Father Gregory Coiro.

But for all its faults, St Vibiana, dedicated in 1876, is one

sparked an unholy row between the church authorities and suburban conservationists.

The Spanish architect, Rafael Moneo, has been given the task of replacing it with "a wonderful sacred space in the midst of a modern city known for its ephemeral entertainment glitter". Those were the words of Cardinal Roger Mahony, who this week handed Moneo the \$50m contract. The cathedral, it is hoped, will serve as a spiritual centre for America's largest archdiocese, and

Drawing on the clout of 4 million mostly Hispanic parishioners, he has rallied formidable allies, including his friend, the Catholic mayor, Richard Riordan. He has also threatened to take his new cathedral to a site outside the city if delays continue. The cardinal said opponents would only succeed in creating one more empty and deteriorating urban eyesore, standing as "a shameful testament to a small group of obstructionists".

On Monday he and the mayor appeared at a rally of about 200 supporters, some of them nuns holding placards reading "Let the cardinal run his church". He demanded "the freedom to worship in the manner and space that we desire and need as Roman Catholics".

But leaders of the 5,000-member Los Angeles Conservancy say they were all away at an environmental conference on 1 June when the cardinal ordered demolition workers onto the site without a permit. They voiced suspicion that the timing was no coincidence, and say that act destroyed 18 months of friendly talks. Conservancy director, Linda Dishman, said: "What is being lost here is that the archdiocese tried to illegally demolish the church."

The court battle resumes on Monday when the archdiocese will try to have a temporary restraining order granted to the Conservancy lifted by a judge. At the ceremony announcing the choice of Moneo, a devout Catholic, he described his assignment in deeply spiritual terms and pressed his lips to the cardinal's ring. He was chosen over two leading US architects including Frank Gehry, listed in *Time* magazine this month as one of the 25 most influential people in the US.

Beyond the cardinal's hints that he would like something in California's Spanish Mission style, and a building ready for use by the year 2000, Moneo has a free hand. Needless to say, the design must be earthquake proof, with - this being Los Angeles - parking spaces for about 3,000 cars.



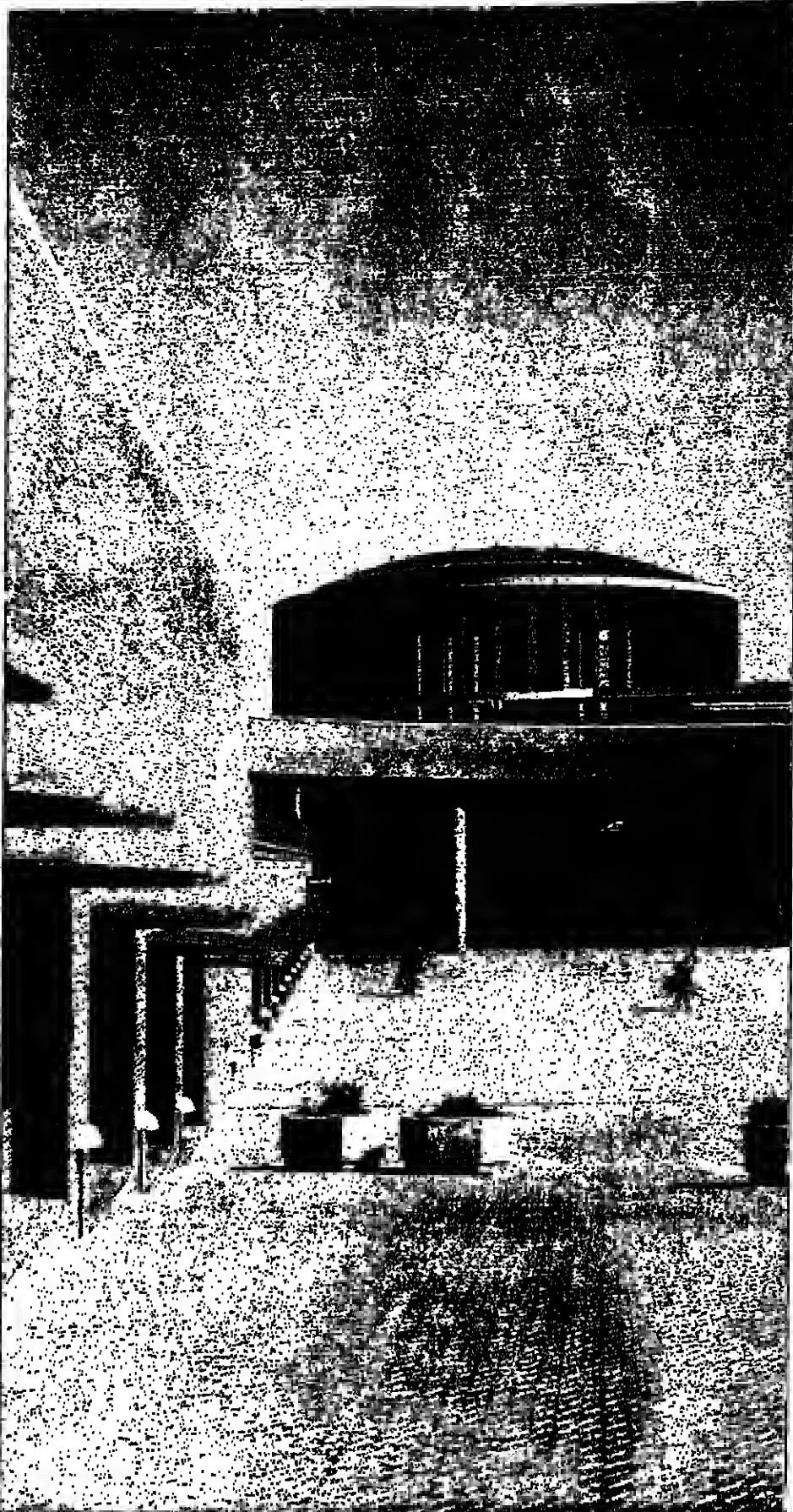
St Vibiana's cathedral: One of Los Angeles' oldest buildings and the centre of an unholy row. Photograph: AP

of the oldest structures in Los Angeles and probably its second oldest church. It was designed by one of the city's first professional architects at a time when the population was about 9,000. It has survived two earthquakes, though it was badly damaged in the 1994 quake. Now, it is slated for demolition, and it has

also as a magnet for the city's notoriously grimy centre.

If it happens, With Los Angeles newly sensible of its own (short) architectural history, the demolition of the original St Vibiana's was dramatically blocked by a court order after a crane pulled off the cupola. Moneo, one of Europe's foremost architects, has spoken of integrating pieces of the old structure, including windows, porticoes and altars, into his new design. But his reputation for skillfully blending the old and the new has so far failed to silence critics of the project, who are demanding an environmental review.

At the centre of the row is the outspoken 60-year-old cardinal, a Los Angeles native who is no stranger to political battles, and is now accused of throwing his weight around like the owner of a football team.



Atocha station: Moneo reincarnated this famous Madrid landmark, combining the original ironwork with four times the capacity. Photograph: Architectural Association

Modest hero 'a classical revolutionary'

ELIZABETH NASH
Madrid

Rafael Moneo is a hero among Spanish architects. What won him the Los Angeles commission was apparently the city's desire for a "Spanish spirit". If brooding, baroque opulence is what they want, they can forget it. Moneo is the master of the cool, forward-looking structure that enhances its context without outflanking it.

"Wise architecture," was one critic's verdict some years back. "The work of a classical revolutionary."

Moneo was awarded the international Pritzker Architecture prize, worth \$100,000, (£66,300) on Wednesday in Los Angeles. Reports in the Spanish press yesterday described the recipient as proud and self-confident, but modest. Just like his buildings.

The critic Fernando Samaniego yesterday summed the architect up thus: "Moneo is classical and avant-garde at the same time, but not to excess. His work shows a strong link to the places where his buildings are situated. He is the Spanish architect most widely respected among his peers."

It is some indication of the esteem in which this unassuming man is held that Spanish architects in 1994 voted his National Museum of Roman Art in Merida, completed in 1986 on the excavated site of Spain's principal Roman city, the best public building of the decade.

Other triumphs include Madrid's reincarnated Atocha station, combining the original majestic ironwork with four times the capacity, and the transformation of an austere 18th-century palace into the popular Thyssen-Bornemisza art museum.

Completed in 1992, both buildings have blended into the fabric of the capital, and it is impossible to enter either without your spirits lifting. Each carries heavy historical baggage, which Moneo transmits

into something light and modern. In contrast to monumental constructions that make you feel like an ant, Moneo treats you like a human being.

The exciting thing about buildings, said Moneo recently, was watching people take them over. "Buildings acquire their own life when the users, the people, become a part of the



Rafael Moneo: A 'classical revolutionary' architect

building," he said. "It is a privilege to establish the terms on which a city's reality turns. Buildings become a reference point for the lives of the people who live there."

Moneo, 58, from Tudela in Navarre, is well-established in the United States. He headed Harvard University's architecture school from 1985 to 1990, after 15 years teaching in Barcelona and Madrid.

His first US building, the Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College near Boston, completed in 1993, was praised by Spanish critics as modest, cultured, elegant, without ostentation or solemnity. The description seems apt for the privileged young ladies destined to use it.

Projects in train include an extension to Mies van der Rohe's Fine Arts Museum in Houston, Texas, Stockholm's Museums of Art and Architecture and a hotel in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz.

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صوتنا من الامم

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a group of men in military uniforms gathered around a table. One man in a light-colored uniform is seated on the left, while others in darker uniforms are standing or seated around the table. Papers and documents are visible on the table surface.

Boarding party: Captain Ulf Brigander of Greenpeace is told to leave Shanghai harbour Photograph: Mark Warford

The ship anchored at the mouth of the Yangtze River, and requested a Chinese pilot into the harbour, because of the difficult currents. China's state-run Xinhua News Agency said Shanghai authorities ordered the MV *Greenpeace* to leave and warned that the crew "would be

Last August, China deported eight Greenpeace activists, including two photographers, for an anti-nuclear protest in Tiananmen Square. However, two of those detained have since had no problem

ready for a September signing. Last week, China seemed to drop its insistence that "peaceful" blasts be exempt for a test ban, and after the Saturday test unexpectedly announced it would conduct one more. Since

China, which is racing to modernise its nuclear arsenal before a treaty is signed, maintains it has carried out fewer tests than most other powers. Last weekend's was its 44th, compared with the United States (1,030), the former Soviet Union (715), France (210), UK (45) and India (probably 1).

Mr. Lott, 54, a conservative Republican, said Gingrich routed his league, Thad Cochran, by 44-36 in the caucus. "I think the conservative, free-market, limited government, pro-life, pro-family style to the job than the conciliatory Mr. Dole. But in a set-back for the party's conservatives, the moderate John Warner foiled an attempt to thrust him in Tuesday's Virginia Senate primary by a fellow Republican, William Miller. *Report Continued - See Washington*

Tensions have flared again between the UN and Iraq after UN weapons inspectors were barred on three occasions from entering Iraqi installations. On Tuesday, inspectors were turned away from sites believed to be involved in a clandestine nuclear weapons programme. Yesterday, another team was forbidden entry to a base of the elite Republican Guard in Baghdad. The crisis is the first since UN approval by the UN last month of an arrangement to allow Iraq to export up to \$2bn (£1.2bn) of oil over six months to pay for humanitarian supplies. *Dan Ulsone - New York*

Bangladeshis walked, rowed boats and bicycled to the polls yesterday, hoping to end a political stand-off that has paralysed the government. At least 18 people died in clashes in the month-long campaign, including two on Tuesday. The government deployed 46,000 troops to maintain order. Polls predicted that neither the communist Bangladesh Nationalist Party or the liberal Bangladesh Awami League would win a majority. *Reuter - Dhaka*

As many as six commandos were killed and eight were injured when two Blackhawk helicopters collided and burst into flames during a training exercise last night. An Australian defence force spokesman, Brigadier Adrian D'Hage, said the two helicopters had been flying in opposite directions about 50 meters above the ground in darkness during an anti-terrorist exercise. **AP - Brisbane**

Tropical storms and heavy policing turned a day of protest by Nigeria's opposition against the military government into only a token show of defiance. Four members of the Campaign for Democracy (CD), which called for protests to mark the anniversary of an annulled 1993 presidential vote, appeared at a designated venue in Lagos and distributed leaflets. "Down with the junta," sang the faint, in a protest that lasted less than 10 minutes. *Time* magazine

Delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, the governing body for America's largest Protestant group, voted yesterday to ask its 15.6 million members to boycott Disney products and theme parks. The non-binding resolution sharply criticised the company for extending health benefits to the same-sex partners of homosexualists and for distributing what it called "objectionable materials" that undermine Christian values. *Reuters - New Orleans*

A senior judge who sent policemen to jail for Spain's 1980s "dirty war" on Basque ETA guerrillas was wounded when a letter-bomb exploded yesterday at his courthouse in central Madrid. Early reports indicated judge José Antonio Jiménez Alfaro, 65, had lost a hand, or several fingers, in the blast. The interior ministry said it was too early to tell who was responsible. **Reuter—Madrid**

A man involved in a dispute with his ex-wife set off an explosion in a Swedish courtroom yesterday, killing himself and seriously wounding his separated wife's lawyer. Police in Eskilstuna, 90 miles west of Stockholm, said the man was involved in a dispute over property. Eyewitnesses said he took a stick of dynamite from his pocket and set it off. He died of his injuries. **Reuter - Eskilstuna, Sweden**

[illegible]

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Baroness Stedman

Phyllis Adams, politician: born **Peterborough** 14 July 1916; OBE 1965; created 1974 **Baroness Sledman**; **Baroness-in-Waiting** 1974-79; government spokesman on transport, the environment and trade, **House of Lords** 1975-79; **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State**, **Department of the Environment** 1979; **Opposition spokesman** on the environment, local government, new towns and transport, **House of Lords** 1979-81; **SDP** until 1982-86, **Chief Whip** 1986-88, **Leader** of **SDP**, **House of Lords** 1988-91; married 1941 **Harry Sledman** (died 1989); died **Peterborough** 8 June 1996.



Photograph: Doc Rowe

Druckman: a style marked by extrovert and ecstatic gestures

هكذا من الأصل

Cabinet 'liberals' play the populist game

Homophobes of the world calm down, Virginia is on the case. It appears that some of that lovely lottery lolly is going to refugees, prostitutes and gays. £82,000 to the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project, £66,000 to advise asylum-seekers, £76,000 for gay and lesbian support groups in London and Leicester. But never fear. The Prime Minister (no less) has taken up cudgels on behalf of the intolerant; the awards, he cries, are "ill-founded and ill-judged". Not on his heels, the Heritage Secretary has promised a fierce investigation into such appalling "political correctness".

Of course she can't actually make them give the money back. Nor can she veto future decisions by the independent charities board. But she can, er, keep an eye on things, and snuff for the sake of a few headlines.

Had this been Michael Howard speaking to a Conservative party conference nobody would have batted an eyelid. We have come to expect manipulative, xenophobic populism from the Prime Minister. But John and Gummy? These were supposed to be the balanced, mature, sensible and tolerant members of the Cabinet. Probably they look in the mirror and tell themselves that liberals are smiling back. They would look again. Their remarks this week were not only illiberal, but vile.

They are right that the National Lottery Charities Board has awarded

money to minority groups. So what? The homeless, the disabled, the deaf and the drug-addicted are all minority groups, too. Organisations working to help all of them received awards this week, and Mr Major did not mutter.

The Prime Minister does, presumably, believe that the general purpose of these latest awards is worthwhile: to help vulnerable young people. He must also surely agree that teenage prostitutes in Edinburgh are vulnerable. How, then, in conscience, can he object to funding a group that educates prostitutes about Aids and helps to get them off the game?

As David Sieff, chair of the charities board, pointed out, giving money to scout groups is easy and popular. Many of them picked up cash this time. But Baden-Powell's creations do not reflect and respond to the range of problems that vulnerable young people face today. Be it drug abuse, sexual health, poverty or social exclusion, groups that help teenagers to cope with such problems deserve applause. These are not cuddly causes. They will never be able to raise cash in the same way as sanitised institutions such as the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, or even Esther Rantzen's Childline. They can't mobilise volunteers to take collections outside supermarkets. That is exactly why they need the support of a funding organisation like the lottery board.

Moreover, for all that they are worthy causes, support groups for gays,



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 6DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

prostitutes and refugees are only picking up a tiny proportion of the cash - less than 1 per cent of this latest £159m giveaway. When you take into account the rest of the lottery loot - prizes, profits, sports, arts, millennium parties - the average punter would have to buy hundreds of thousands of tickets before he or she had contributed even a penny towards the Scottish prostitutes.

Competition for these awards has been fierce. The admirable Missing Person's Helpline and the Big Issue both left with less than they had hoped for, largely because so many other groups were as deserving. If the board,

faced with so many competing claims, felt that these groups argued persuasively for their particular projects, the Prime Minister should not be so quick to dismiss them out of hand.

Of course, there are real questions to be asked about the way the board makes its decisions and allocates cash. For example, pouring so much into capital projects rather than current funding risks creating nationwide fleets of minibuses with nobody to drive them. Some of the awards will turn out to be wasted or abused - not because they are spent on prostitutes, but because the board has not yet found a way ade-

quately to scrutinise the applications and the spending of the cash.

All these arguments seem terribly obvious. It seems remarkable that we should have to reflect on them at all - except when you consider that these are politicians in the run-up to the election. Last October, the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, played the same trick at the Conservative party conference. Mid-speech, he hailed with derision Camden Council's support for the "Camden Hopscotch Asian Women's Group". But both Mr Mawhinney's hopscotch and Mr Major's prostitutes demonstrate how hollow and opportunistic these politicians' complaints are. National government already gives funds to at least two of Mr Major's vilified groups, and to the much-maligned Hopscotch as well. What is good enough for the taxpayer is not, it appears, good enough for Lottery cash, particularly in the run-up to the election.

Downing Street tried yesterday to pretend that there was no contradiction between ministers' statements and government policy. The Lottery, we were told, is different; it was set up to raise funds for "good purposes ... nobody had in mind concerns like these." It just isn't what the public expected when they bought their lottery tickets, is it?

What nonsense. Any allocation of a large sum of money is bound to provoke disagreement at the margins. Government spending certainly does,

yet those who object still have to pay taxes. If a democratically elected government feels that Hopscotch, Leicester lesbians *et al* are worth financing, why shouldn't the charities board be able to do the same? Any players of the Lottery who object to the way that the board distributes the profits has an easy remedy which is not available to taxpayers. Stop buying the tickets.

It takes courage to compromise

David Trimble's acceptance of Senator George Mitchell as chairman of the mainstream talks at Stormont is both a harbinger of what might be accomplished in the talks and itself part of the bargaining. "Of course it's a compromise. This is what happens in negotiations," he said yesterday.

In the banality of that observation lies not only wisdom but courage. The courage to give in order to get. No one is saying Mr Trimble has changed his spots and turned overnight into a pillar of Ulster pluralism. But his refusal to play at name-calling with Ian Paisley is almost statesmanlike. Those who feared his leadership of the Ulster Unionists would be an exercise in stiff-necked rejectionism have been proved pessimists in the most welcome way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Referendum Party's Dicey quotation

Sir: The Referendum Party's attempt to give its case academic respectability is spurious.

It quotes extensively from Dicey's introduction to *The Study of the Law of the Constitution*, 8th edition, London 1920. But it fails to point out that the introduction expresses Dicey's personal views. The idea of a referendum is not mentioned in the main text.

And it only appears in the introduction to the 8th edition when Dicey - like the Referendum Party - thought a referendum might get support for his views on an issue (Home Rule) on which he was unlikely to win otherwise. There is no mention of a referendum anywhere in editions 1-7 or editions after the 8th when the distinguished editor - after consultation - decided it was inappropriate to include it even in the introduction. How can one have any faith in a party that uses such deceptive tactics?

SIR TERENCE HIGGINS MP
(Worthing, Con)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: Your headline "Tory MPs dance to Goldsmith's tune" (12 June) makes me wonder why Sir James doesn't just buy the Conservative Party. It must be for sale: everything else is in this country.

DAVID NETTLETON
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

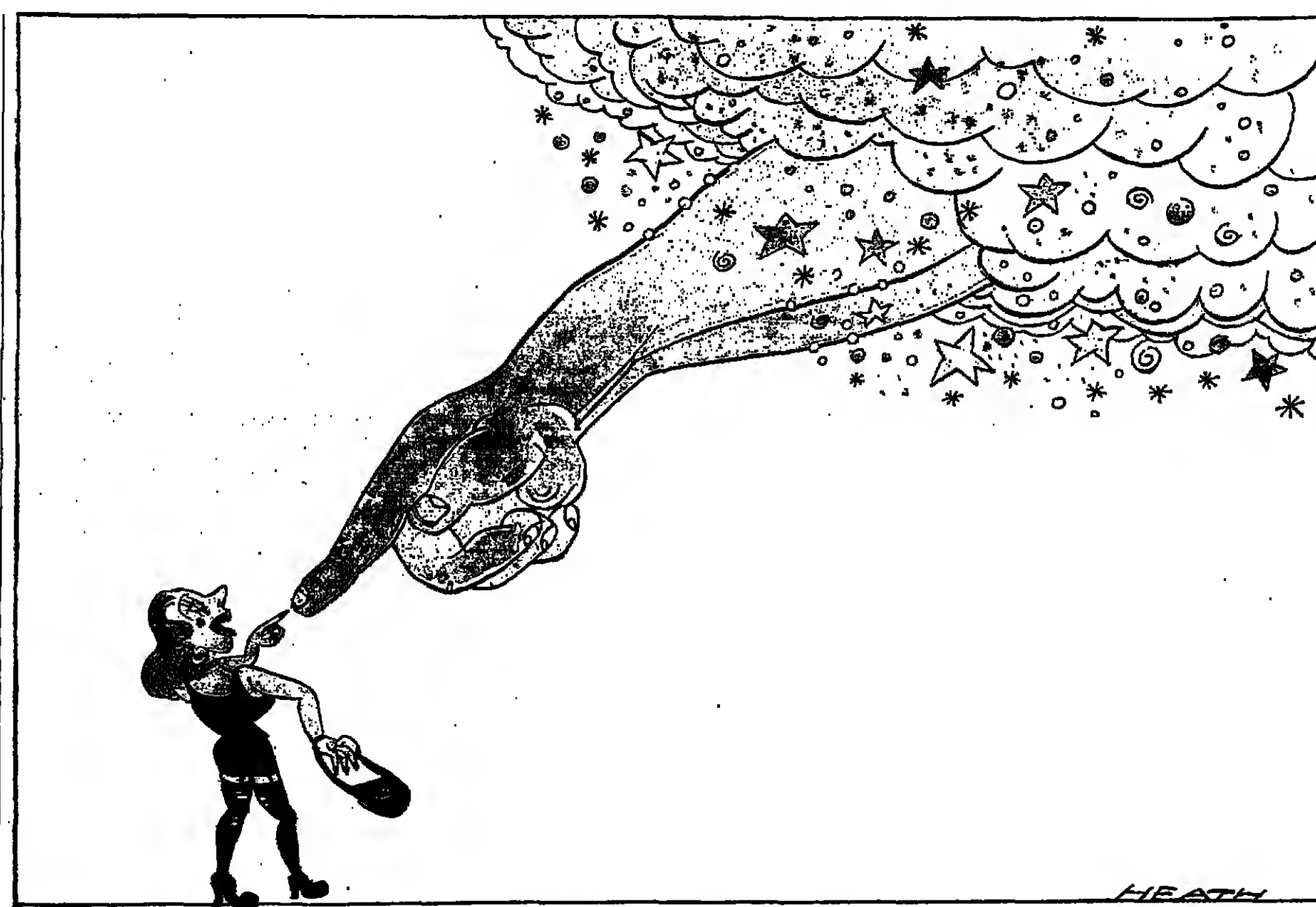
Graveyard of prime ministers

Sir: John Major is mistaken if, as Andrew Marr says (11 June), he "has commented privately that he may be the first British premier to be ousted by the Irish question since William Gladstone". Ireland was responsible for ousting two British prime ministers in the 1970s.

In the February 1974 general election, Labour attained 301 seats, while Heath's Conservatives got 296. If the Ulster Unionists had not broken away from the Conservatives (whose whip they had been taking) during the preceding parliament, their 11 seats would have brought Heath's total to 307. He would have been better placed than Labour to form a minority government, and would have been a much more attractive coalition partner for the Liberals (who turned down Heath's proposal for a coalition), since their 14 seats plus Heath's 307 would have been enough for a majority in the 635-seat House of Commons.

In the confidence vote on 28 March 1979, James Callaghan was defeated by a single vote. Gerry Fitt, MP for Belfast West, made a speech in the debate explaining why, for reasons relating to Ireland, he would be abstaining in the division. Frank Maguire, independent MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, followed Fitt's example and also abstained. If either one, let alone both, had voted with Labour, Callaghan would have survived, Ireland precipitated a general election and the consequent Conservative victory that led in 17 years of Labour in opposition.

GERALD KAUFMAN MP
(Manchester Gorton, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1



Unproven answer to asthma

Sir: Your article about the Buteyko breathing technique ("A shorter intake of breath", Section Two, 10 June) claimed the existence of a technique with the potential to "cure" asthma which was apparently not welcomed by the National Asthma Campaign. Readers could be forgiven for thinking that this charity has entirely rejected the Buteyko method either out of pique or out of excessive devotion to drug therapy. None of this is true.

It is true that we do not at present recommend the Buteyko technique, just as we never recommend any new treatment or technique without rigorous clinical trials published, after peer review, in a reputable medical journal. The double-blind clinical trial referred to in your article has not been published in this way. Its results are interim and therefore not peer-reviewed. They are drawn from one trial of 43 people who self-reported the extent of their symptoms, thus increasing the likelihood of a placebo effect.

As your article points out, even the author of the interim study is sceptical about the benefits of the technique. The National Asthma Campaign cannot recommend that the 3 million people in the United Kingdom who have asthma entirely abandon their orthodox treatment and rely on this technique on the basis of a study of just 43 people.

MELINDA LETTS
Chief Executive
National Asthma Campaign
London N1

Above all, pupils need hope

Sir: In the debate over pupil achievement, no one has mentioned the single most important factor - motivation. I chair two school governing bodies in Cambridgeshire. In this county the number of pupils going into employment at 16 is only 9 per cent. At 18 years old it is just 11 per cent. If they cannot see the financial advantages of better results in public exams many pupils are not motivated to study. Those who are not attracted by academia are doomed to many years of apparently pointless and almost endless education.

It would be easier for schools to motivate these pupils to achieve if there were real jobs waiting for the keen 16- or 18-year-old. This morning I watched one of my pupils cycling to "work experience", genuinely excited by the prospect of a day of real work where he will be able to pretend he is an adult, doing something useful. His next experience of work is likely to be six years hence. And at 15, six years is a very long time.

The Rev STEPHEN LEEKE
The Parish Churches of Warboys with Broughton and Bury with Wistow Huntingdon

Sir: In less emotive times a shift from CCD to CDD in the average A-level entry grades required to enter programmes of teacher education would hardly merit a front-page exclusive (10 June),

particularly when you recall that the number of students entering higher education has doubled between 1986 and 1996, your sample years. Furthermore, all candidates for teacher training programmes are interviewed by both practising teachers and teacher educators and are judged on their potential to become effective teachers after three or four years of training as well as on their likely A-level points score. It is, however, fair to say that teaching is looking increasingly unattractive to potential university entrants, and this is reflected in a decline in applications in recent years. The extent to which this is influenced by the comments of politicians, quasi-politicians and the media is for your readers to judge.

Dr JOHN CATER
Director
Edge Hill University College
Ormskirk, Lancashire

Stake in a job

Sir: So the Adam Smith Institute and some Labour politicians share the aim of "giving individuals their own stake in their future welfare provision", by having them contribute to personal insurance accounts which will pay benefits in the event of unemployment, sickness, etc (10 June).

A few pages later, in an article about redundancy and sackings, the director of the Institute of Personnel and Development is quoted as saying: "All the rhetoric about stakeholding is just hot air unless organisations are seen by

their employees to be committed to long-term strategies for maximising employment opportunities."

If individuals are to be required to take responsibility for their own welfare during periods of unemployment, would it not be just to enable them also to take more control over their own lives while in employment? Democratic employee ownership has proved itself to be an equitable and viable form of enterprise, both where a facility was formerly within the public sector - eg Tower Colliery, Greenwich Leisure, the dozens of self-managed co-operatives - and in the 1,000-plus small and medium-sized businesses which have opted to establish themselves as co-operatives in the past two decades. Needless to say, long-term employment strategies are part of these organisations' plans.

Yet while there seems to be a growing consensus that workers should be making their own provision for the lean times, there is a woeful lack of political interest in significant measures to enable them to enjoy job security and fair reward during their wealth-producing years. Employee control of enterprise should be fundamental to any vision of a stakeholding society. ICOM (the Industrial Common Ownership Movement) has produced an eight-point plan for changes in public policy which would encourage the expansion of democratic employee ownership.

CHARLIE CATTELL
Industrial Common Ownership Movement Leeds

Civilised travel

Sir: Representing the "me" society on cars (10 June), Polly Tynbee happened on the obvious cure but without hanging that drum loud enough: "Dazzle us with the sunshine of a public transport system so convenient and enjoyable that it becomes irresistible, then we would relinquish our death machines."

We do not want "improved" transport facilities, but a new concept of civilised travel. An example from the 1970s is the US government's federal funding of Washington DC's wonderful metro, that is faster, quieter and more comfortable than driving to work or going by cab. To do the equivalent for all British public transport systems, ridding them of their grime of inefficiency, would surely, along with relatively few important political issues today, be one of the most astute investments for the next century?

PATRICK HODGKINSON
Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urbanism
Bath

Visual illiteracy

Sir: Both Ken Welsby (Letters, 6 June) and John Fairbank (Letters, 11 June) miss an important point about the teaching of handwriting. Learning to write brings with it an appreciation of those fundamentals of the visual world: line, form, space and pattern. The visual illiteracy of the average person today may be partly due to not having learnt to write decently.

MICHAEL HARVEY
Bridport, Dorset

Stirring up anti-gay bigotry

Sir: The Conservatives must be in a desperate plight to think it worthwhile playing the homophobic bigotry card by attacking the National Lottery Charities Board's awards of a tiny proportion of its huge haulout to a couple of small lesbian and gay charities (report, 12 June).

In 1978, I was one of the nearly 200 signatories of the statement *Towards a Charter of Homosexual Rights*, which commented that "We believe that fear or hatred of homosexuals is a social evil akin to anti-Semitism, racism, and slavery, with the same evil consequences. It harms both the victimised individuals, and the society which tolerates it. ... Homosexuals are the only natural minority ... who are still liable to be mocked or persecuted by people claiming to represent ordinary social opinion, or the Christian church." Sadly, this is still true today, even though - or possibly because - homosexual people are much more visible and vocal in society.

The Prime Minister is a civilised man, and he knows perfectly well that homosexuals are still very disadvantaged and discriminated against. One can only conclude that he (quite wrongly, in my opinion) discerns some political advantage in whipping up prejudice against them. If so, he should remember that gay men and women are, like everyone else, taxpayers and voters, and he should realise that the time has gone by when they are prepared to be ground down and insulted by his party or anyone else.

I was especially sorry to see that Virginia Bottomley is apparently responsible for launching this disreputable bandwagon. As Secretary of State for Health, Mrs Bottomley had extensive dealings with many lesbian and gay people giving devoted service to AIDS sufferers and in other health work. We deserve better than her patronising sneers and silly twaddle about "deeply shocked colleagues".

ANTONY GREY
London NW2

Sir: I was not surprised at the moral outrage expressed by the Prime Minister over some recent National Lottery Charities Board awards. Evidently, these awards, made in charities dealing with anti-deportation agencies, prostitution and gay/lesbian rights are "out of kilter" with the feeling of the general public.

In my view these are the only groups deserving of National Lottery cash. All the other so-called good causes should be properly resourced from national taxation. The National Lottery Charities Board is a substitute for a well-regulated and fair taxation system, and in effect takes money from those people least able to afford it, to subsidise those areas of public life which are rightly the province of public funding.

ALEX FALCONER MEP
(Mid Scotland and Fife, Lab)
Inverkeithing, Fife

Sir: I am entirely apposed to the National Lottery in principle, but it is unreasonable for the Government to set up independent bodies to administer the proceeds only for the Prime Minister and the Heritage Secretary to threaten interference as soon as they have some objection to decisions made by them. The "tax on the poor" appears to be perfectly acceptable provided that the "rich" retain the right of veto.

PHILIP J RICKARD
Sutton, Surrey

interview



PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN PISOZZI/THE RIVER CAFE COOK BOOK

Alienation is off his menu

Richard Rogers is not only one of Britain's most creative architects, he is a visionary thinker about the nature of cities. Here he tells **Jonathan Glancey** how the cultured urban life he enjoys at the River Café near his London office can be made available to everyone

St Thomas Aquinas, the 13th-century Italian philosopher, would have enjoyed lunching at the River Café, Hammersmith. The "Angelic Doctor" could have sat over a table set with exquisite risotto and *al dente* pasta pondering the nature of the ideal civic society with Sir Richard Rogers. Sir Richard is the architect responsible for the Pompidou Centre and the Lloyd's Building in the City of London, among many other futuristic city monuments.

Over the past decade he has become the nearest thing Britain has to a minister of culture, but without political office or a seat in Parliament. He has also been active behind the scenes in an increasing number of charitable ventures aimed at bringing radical change to the way in which people live in the most deprived areas and housing estates in the country.

The River Café (proprietors Ruth Rogers, wife of Richard, and Rose Gray) is not only a de facto extension of Richard Rogers's architectural studio, and the sociable architect's natural forum, but a part of regeneration, in delicious miniature, of the civic culture Rogers would have us all enjoy being part of.

Our single greatest social problem, says Rogers, is that we have too much leisure time.

One imagines St Thomas, tackling the grilled scallops, nodding in agreement. What was once seen as a virtue - a time to stop and stare, regenerate human batteries, tend the garden - is, as far as Rogers is concerned, a vice. Why? Because, not knowing how to use free time and not having the education, training, motivation or money to do much more with it than watch television or kick a ball around, citizens feel alienated - useless, without purpose and in effect outside the system they are meant to be a part of. Or, as Aquinas had it, "a man is a slave when he does what he likes to do in his spare time and in his working time does what is required of him".

This famous Thomist aphorism has been taken up over the centuries by those - such as Eric Gill, the sculptor, letterer and essayist - who have employed it as the philosophical underpinning of utopian communities that have been dedicated to the sanctity of work. "Every man," Gill liked to say, "is a special kind of artist." St Thomas would have agreed. So does Richard Rogers.

Human beings have a need to express themselves, and this they do best when expert in some art, craft or skill, whether making wobbly pots for sale in village fayres, playing tennis, or, like Rogers, inspiring a team of architects who continue to

design some of the most thoughtful and elegant modern buildings anywhere in the world.

The difference between Richard Rogers and Thomas Aquinas or Eric Gill is that whereas these earlier thinkers believed that a state of good living could only be achieved by escaping the sins of the city (Aquinas chose the monastic life, Gill a secular version of the same), Rogers believes that we

incorporate into the foreseeable future, but that this is not necessarily a bad thing, at least in the minds of those countless millions who are moving from fields to shanty towns. What these migrants seek is not only an improved chance of making a living, but ultimately of giving their children a chance to benefit from the riches and culture that to date only cities seem able to provide.

Our own tiredness with the city in Britain, Rogers believes, derives from the fact that we have exploited it for short-term financial gain rather than nurturing it so that it works for us not just as a marketplace, but as a place of delight and culture.

"Culture's a sticking point in Britain," says Rogers. "This week we held another in the series of public debates on London in the 21st century, at Central Hall, Westminster. The theme was culture in the capital, by which I mean the way a city lives and works, and not specifically the fine arts. People are scared of the word; it sounds grand and removed from everyday life. But unless we get the culture of the city - London, Istanbul, Bombay - into some sort of sustainable, desirable and forward-looking balance, we are condemning citizens to lead a fruitless and alienating life."

The big problem in western cities, as Rogers sees it, is that there are more people seeking fewer jobs. "Children are growing up now who are likely never to have a full-time job. If you leave them to waste their days watching TV and without purpose and money, they are at best going to be pretty much dysfunctional citizens, and at worst are going to turn to crime."

"This is happening. And what's our response? To increase policing and security, to build more prisons, to deal out longer custodial sentences."

"This is unrealistic, an expensive nonsense. Why waste money on more police and more prisons when what we should be doing is creating a viable and attractive urban cul-

ture that positively encourages people to want to join in, to do something useful, to become, in Tony Blair's word, stakeholders in civic society?"

"We also need to capitalise on the time and energy freed by the reduction in conventional employment and the lowering of the age of retirement," says Rogers. "At the moment, we view the hours between waking and sleeping that people do not spend working as redundant. What we need to build up is the notion of creative leisure. As a society, we need capital generated by government and, now, a third category, social capital."

"Social capital includes any number of different forms of voluntary and community work. We need active citizens to renew run-down housing estates and urban parks, to run community services, to create their own art, music and meeting places. Over the past 15 years, central government has increasingly taken power into its own hands and rolled the frontiers of the state over local interests and local democracy. We have to give a voice and power back to citizens at a grassroots level."

"Where would the money come from to fund new forms of community employment? Not out of thin air, I can assure you. The money we could be spending on what I've called creative leisure is currently being spent on, for example, unemployment benefit. To me this is a topsy-turvy way of going about things. Why pay people to hang around all day watching TV when they could be setting up social enterprises that ultimately would pay back to the community a value way and above the initial capital outlay?"

"As people began to work in creative ways, we would see a gradual decline not only in crime - and so need less in the way of security and fewer prisons - but also of poor health. Active and engaged citizens are far less likely to be ill than

those pushed to the margin of civic society. So, we'd save money on policing and health care that could then be assigned to new forms of employment."

If this basis for a healthy civic society sounds in any way pie-in-the-sky, Rogers has proof up his sleeve that his notion of creative leisure works, and works in what seem to be the least promising circumstances. Since the riot on Broadwater Farm, the vast

between city and citizen. "The other development that makes me hopeful is the rise of bodies like the National Tenants Resource Centre, a high-living national charity based in Chester that aims to help tenants, young people and front-line staff in disadvantaged areas. It aims to develop high-quality training and support for those involved in making communities, in particular urban communities, all over Britain and Ireland work."

For Rogers, architecture is a key means of shaping cities so that they respond to this new covenant. "I passionately believe," he says, "that we must strengthen the public domain in both its philosophical and physical aspects, for the public domain is the crucible of a caring and creative society. The philosophical manifestation of the public domain is the existence of basic human rights, and its physical manifestation is the articulation of these rights in three-dimensional space. City buildings, and more importantly the space around them, between them and even through them, must be as open and as welcoming as possible for all citizens."

"Now that computer and communications technology is beginning to break down monolithic corporations and encouraging lighter and more flexible ways of working, we need fewer and fewer monumental buildings; and those we have can be colonised by a host of different organisations and activities, giving city centres a finer grain in terms of use and occupation, making them more accessible and ultimately more democratic. The city at its best is all about communication, the exchange of ideas - it fails if people are isolated or feel they have nothing to contribute."

Rogers's ideal city is an attractive place and far from being unattainable. Because, however, it is a highly democratic city, it will take some while before we see its full effect in, say, London. Unlike any other European capital, London has

no city-wide government. Meanwhile the capital, like Britain as a whole, has witnessed an extraordinary transference of wealth from the poor to the rich over the past decade which has meant that the most fashionable parts of the city have become ever sleeker and glossier while the poorest (with exceptions, such as Broadwater Farm, which have been put under a national spotlight) have remained shabby.

Rogers has the figures on the prongs of his fork. "Between 1973 and 1993, annual earnings of the top 20 per cent in Britain increased by 10 per cent, while those of the lowest 10 per cent dropped by 24 per cent. This is hardly the way to create a society that people feel proud to be a part of, or can afford to be a part of."

Rogers, of course, has done rather well for himself over the same period, and there are those - not on Broadwater Farm - who would label him a champagne socialist. But there is no need to defend him: unlike architects who have talked of revolutionising the city but have done little about it except talk, Rogers is engaged at grassroots level in the workings of concrete housing estates, as well as making practical proposals, at great expense to his own practice, for ways of making our city centres more pleasurable places in which to live and work. Whether or not you share his vision of a civic culture and a civic society in which we all have the chance to lunch at the River Café is neither here nor there; what matters is that the civic culture that Rogers proposes is one aimed at encouraging those who live in cities to be active citizens rather than passive consumers. If, ultimately, every man (woman and child) cannot be as free as St Thomas Aquinas would have liked them to be, we can at least start working with available but misdirected resources to make our cities better places rather than expecting them to do all the work for us.

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Antiquarian books are books that are collected for their oddity, rarity, beauty, hindering and so on. Second-hand books are much superior, because they have to be read. There is nothing much else to do with them.

So a second-hand bookseller is superior to an antiquarian bookseller?

In every respect but price, yes.

Are second-hand books cheaper than antiquarian books?

Generally, they are cheaper than any kind of book. It is usually cheaper to buy a good second-hand hardback of a book than a new paperback.

Good heavens. So why don't people always go for second-hand books?

Because he is a deaf git?

Chapter and verse on second-hand bookshops

Today's Information Special is all about second-hand bookshops. Yes, all you need to know about buying the kind of book that has already been read and rejected by other people!

What is the difference between an antiquarian bookshop and a second-hand bookshop?

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Miles Kingston

Sometimes, but generally the last answer is that if the bookseller preserves a discreet silence, you might agree to pay the higher price out of impatience or sheer embarrassment.

If there are so many second-hand bookshops, why are there no second-hand video tape shops? Surely videos are, for many people, what books used to be. So why isn't there an equivalent resale sector?

Books and videos occupy an entirely different culture. For instance, a book borrowed from a library is something you take home and enjoy at leisure, for two or three weeks. A video is borrowed overnight. It is a cultural one-night stand. Video

shops do sell second-hand videos, but they're not called "second-hand", they're called, rather unattractively, "rental". Everything in a video shop is geared up to an evening at home, which is why they also sell sweets, crisps, soft drinks and basic groceries. Everything in a second-hand bookshop is geared to the belief that people have no existence outside bookshops. This may, incidentally, be true. However well you know your local second-hand bookseller, you never bump into him in the street. Maybe he only exists in his shop...

Why do some second-hand bookshops mark the prices in a strange code, so that instead of it saying £3.50, it might say BITQ? Is this to make it harder for the customer to haggle, or is it because the bookseller can't decide what to charge?

No, it's so that the bookseller can look at the customer and decide how much he can sting him. We recommend that whenever you find such a coded price pencilled in, you rub it out and write X/£T instead.

What does that mean? Haven't the faintest idea. But nor will the bookseller.

Why is the music in second-hand bookshops always Mozart?

Because he is out of copyright.

Finally, why do second-hand bookshops sell books that nobody in their right minds could possibly want to buy?

Suck it up!

I am always seeing copies of The Good Pub Guide 1983 for sale. Why, for heaven's sake, would anyone want to have a 13-year-old pub guide?

Let me ask you a question. I am always passing pubs that have stickers in the window reading: "We are in The 1983 Good Pub Guide," and nothing later. Why haven't they taken them down?

I don't know. Why?

To cater for all the people who don't buy pub guides unless they're over 10 years old.

Copies of this guide to second-hand bookshops available from me, only 30p... OK, 2p Or 10p? OK, free, then. B that's my final offer.

هكذا من الأصل

the commentators

Space fantasies that spin us right out of orbit

Despite what our detractors believe, science-fiction writers don't generally go into space to get away from it all. This is for the simple reason that space is, to a very significant number of decimal places, empty. Anything we find there can only be something we've brought with us: personal baggage filled with all the things we like best, but also with all the things we can't imagine how to leave behind, whether we like them or not.

When it comes to kitting up for the void, Buzz Aldrin, the man who drove Neil Armstrong to the Moon, has the advantage over most of us that he has actually been there. If he has a disadvantage, it is the same thing. Aldrin knows only too well the infinite inhospitability of space. Several times in *Encounter with Tiber* he makes the point that an astronaut is effectively a human waldo, a remote-controlled device executing a complex series of commands from Ground Control. A life-support system of millions of intricate devices furnished by millions of taxpayers doesn't leave much room for individuality.

Starting where Aldrin's own experience left off, *Encounter with Tiber* is the projected history of the rest of the colossal cybernetic enterprise: to send a parcel of human beings to another sun. A radio signal received from

Alpha Centauri turns out to be a digitised movie intended for a lost colony. The secrets of interstellar flight may all be here, in a box on the Moon, with a back-up on Mars. If they have survived, if we can get at them.

This is a genial, good-hearted book meant for people fascinated in knowing how things might work, rather than how they might feel.

There is a bit more vitality to the two long excerpts from the Tiberians' story of their perilous initial voyage to Earth, 9,000 years ago (which it is tempting to think might be mainly the work of Aldrin's collaborator, the sci-fi author John Barnes). Tiberians come in two different shapes, evolutionarily and culturally divergent, although their mentality is perfectly familiar. Capable of being not merely dutiful and courageous but also ambivalent, arrogant and cruel, these aliens seem more human, in fact, than most of the humans, and certainly less alien than Communism, which remains, at all times and on all planets, really scary.

About as alien to NASA as you can get is the Culture invented by Iain M. Banks. An interstellar confederacy thousands of years old, it exists to provide perpetual pleasure, individual self-fulfilment and freedom from suffering for all. Its resources are infinite, its capability hardly less so.

BOOK REVIEW

EXCESSION
Iain Banks
Little, Brown £15.99
ENCOUNTER WITH TIBER
Buzz Aldrin
and John Barnes
Hodder £16.99

Nanotechnology, antigravity, matter transmission, bodily transformation and travel through several different types of hyperspace are all freely and instantly available to any of its inhabitants, many of whom live on the giant starships, or General Systems Vehicles, whose artificial intelligences are the prime movers of the civilisation, and the principal characters of Banks's latest novel.

Not a whit constrained by the baggage restrictions that Aldrin and Barnes observe, when Banks ships into space he always takes vast quantities of the boldest and most elaborate fantasies of militarism, espionage, romance and baroque technology. Like its predecessors, *Excession* is about the edge of the Culture, where it rubs up against other galactic tendencies, and where, in the

name of the laid-back utopia, the Special Circumstances department of its diplomatic arm routinely and clandestinely betrays all its principles.

There are two major outside forces this time. One is the eponymous *Excession*, an immense featureless sphere which pops into existence in a well-charted region of space and simply hangs there, impervious to inquiry, defying laws of physics that even the Culture finds itself obliged to observe. The other is the Affront, a marvelously horrible species of technically advanced bloodthirsty tentacled gasbags whose manifest destiny it is to hunt, shoot, gobble and rape their merry way from world to world.

Once again reluctant agents are peremptorily shoe-horned out of comfortable circumstances, called away from wildly enjoyable parties by secretive automata, to be dispatched on operational missions to secure the co-operation of other individuals more thoroughly retired from the dirty fray. Needless to say, in Banks as in Le Carré, the mission profiles serve only to conceal what's really going on.

Banks's staggering imaginative energy is matched only by his wry, sceptical humour, his insistence on isolating the political and moral infrastructure of the most bizarre situation. Though he plots with more

energy than precision, piling conspiracy upon conspiracy, he never loses sight of the quantum of history that is individual choice. He makes no apology for the fact that his Culture still prefer the basic human form. Able to back themselves up in data storage, to change sex and to secrete drugs internally at will, they remain perfectly liable to feel and say: "I could use a drink."

Memorable scenes include an Affront regimental dinner, eaten with harpoons on the edge of a pit of fighting animals; and a fateful encounter in a city designed to resemble a gigantic circuitboard, caused by a traffic accident outside the temple of a transcendental cult, involving a dinosaur and a light two-wheeled carriage drawn by a quasi-ossich and driven by a quasi-chimpanzee, during a hologram enactment of an exaggerated version of a Second World War bombing raid. Only Banks could possibly dream up such a scene and make it funny, frightening, mystifying, exciting, and credible, let alone comprehensible. As with the work of any powerful moral visionary, Philip K. Dick or Charles Dickens, to wish such a scene might be fastened more securely to the plot seems the height of ingratitude.

COLIN GREENLAND

Has Liberty finally lost the thread?

Tamsin Blanchard on the decline of our favourite fabric emporium

It is ironic that in the century year of William Morris, the man who aimed to improve the nation's taste by giving ordinary people the chance to buy and make beautiful things, the 20 regional Liberty shops that are scattered from Brighton to Glasgow are to close. Morris's Arts and Crafts movement lives on in the printed fabric rolls that form the backbone of the regional Liberty business, but ordinary people from ordinary places around the country are now to be deprived of one of the few affordable legacies of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic.

As a result of pre-tax profits for 1995 falling from £3.6m to £2.1m, the bastion of two English heritage fabrics is to close all of its regional shops. Liberty's out-of-town outlets are to relocate to airport shopping forecourts, alongside the other tourist merchandise from Harrods and Wedgwood.

Liberty first opened its doors in 1875 and the original store in Regent Street still thrives with tourists flocking into the mock-Tudor wooden interior. The out-of-town shops are not as cosmopolitan in outlook as the London store, with its designer floors for men and women stocking one of the most extensive selections of contemporary clothing in the country. Instead, they concentrate on fabrics, crafts and the accoutrements of dressing. And therein lies the problem: interest in dress-making is declining.

Nora Doerfel teaches dress-making at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. There are five classes each week, but numbers attending are dropping. "Around five to eight years ago, we had people on a waiting list to come to classes," she says. Class numbers have gone from 20 at their peak to 15 at most, and the average age is over 40. Mrs Doerfel has noticed general slack in fabric departments being reduced, but she is a particular fan of Liberty when it comes to buying special fabrics unavailable anywhere else. "It's awful that Liberty is closing its regional shops," she says. Her sentiments will be echoed wholeheartedly by fellow home dress-makers around the country.

Mrs Doerfel blames the waning numbers in her classes on the availability of relatively inexpensive clothing in the high street at shops like Marks & Spencer and Next. Women - and her pupils are almost exclusively female - also have less time on their hands to spend

making clothes for themselves or their families.

The first out-of-town Liberty opened in King Street in Manchester in 1955. Over 40 years later, the loss of Liberty on the high street in towns such as Chester and Bath represents more than just a decline in dressmaking. The familiar purple sign has become as much a part of the heart of those places as the Roman ruins in Chester, the Pavilion in Brighton, or the Spa at Bath. Shoppers, who might have never even walked through the doors of their local branch, will mourn it when it closes, to be replaced by another branch of Oasis, or a craft shop filled with New Age papier-mâché, scented candles and aromatherapy oils.

Belinda Morris is a fashion writer and stylist who lives near

The bastion of two English heritage fabrics is to close all its regional shops

Norwich. She visits Liberty whenever she is in the city, and sees its closure as a sad loss. "It isn't just tourists who shop there," she says. "It's more the local people who will miss it. In a place like Norwich or York, Liberty is so in keeping with the ambience of the place. It raises the tone of the street and makes you feel very nervous about what might replace it."

Ian Thompson, chief executive at Liberty, says: "It's not a decision that was taken lightly. It is extremely sad, particularly for our staff. But the shops were losing money. There is no way that a shop space measuring 900 square feet in Bath could replicate the diversity of merchandise in 100,000 square feet in Regent Street."

Liberty in London is more than a tourist attraction, selling printed silk squares to anyone that has room in their suitcase to take back home as a present or souvenir. As well as the floral prints and Art Nouveau furnishing fabric designs that may be a decade or two past their sell-by date, the store has retained the spirit of Liberty in the 1890s by featuring contemporary designs. The out-of-town shops have been laid to rest far too readily. Why not give the provincial customer the opportunity to share William Morris's vision by bringing modern-day products to ordinary people?

Don't abuse swearing

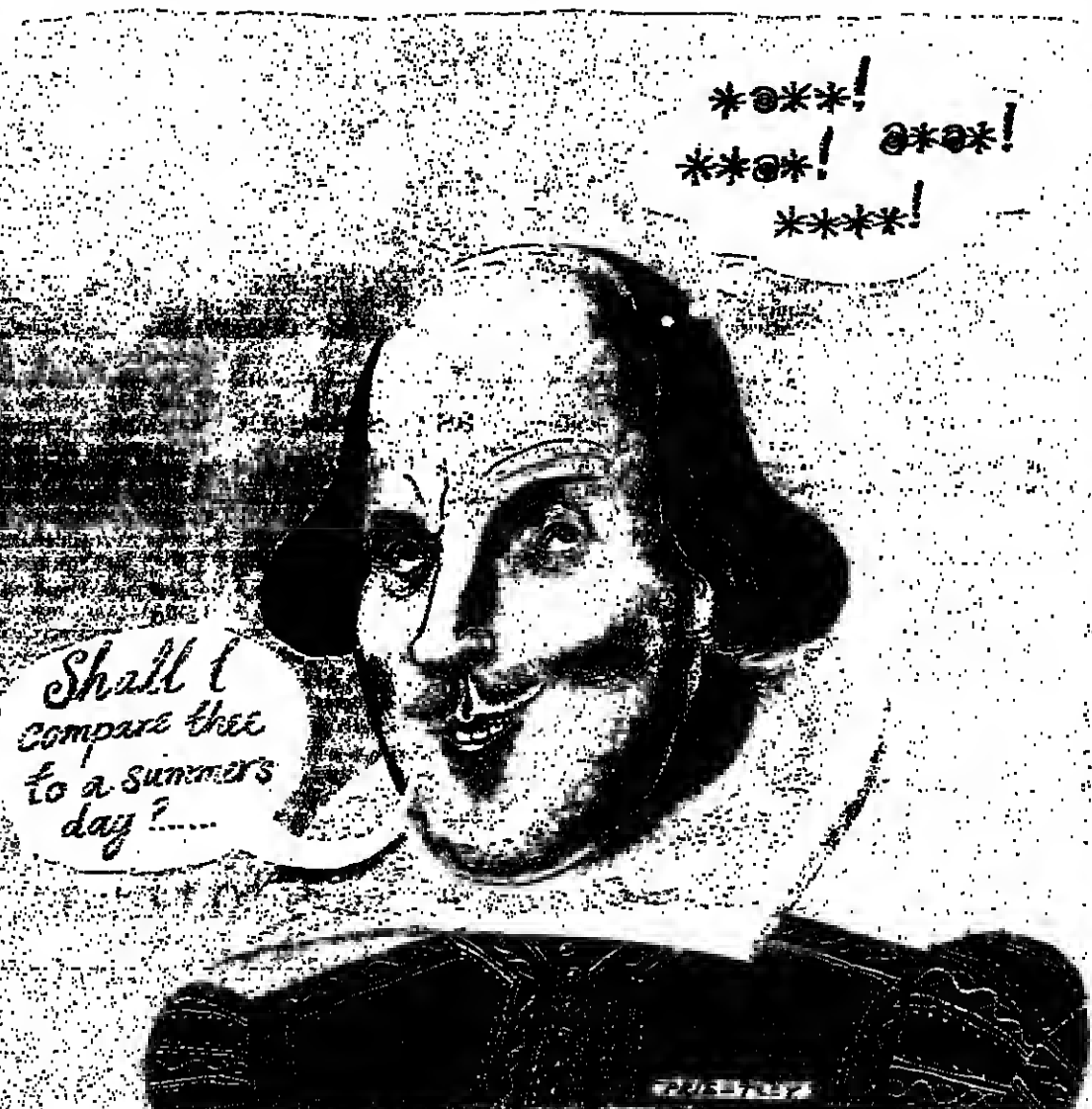
In the row over expletives on TV, the prudes are right. If we swear too often, its therapeutic value is lost and the language is impoverished

One of the many highlights of the exciting Sixties was Kenneth Tynan saying "fuck" on television. Opinion instantly polarised along entirely predictable lines. There were those who thought this was an outrage, such words should be absolutely forbidden. And there were those who took this to be a liberating moment when truth and freedom leapt across the barrier of hypocrisy and inhibition.

Now after the 9pm "watershed" you can hear the word nightly. In the name of realism and freedom of expression, broadcasters have decided that what is heard on the street and in cinemas should also be heard on television.

The Broadcasting Standards Council has drawn attention to this and pointed out that a large number of people are still offended by such usage. "Viewers," says Lady Howe, the council's chairman, "find bad language, particularly pre-watershed, hard to justify."

Meanwhile, the actor Martin Clunes, star of the superb sitcom *Men*



something that evokes an absolute, a generally accepted level of seriousness that cannot be improved upon. All swear words are, in this sense, sacred.

Of course, this sacredness is abused. Routinely we hear conversations in which every other word is "fuck". The word, to the user, has become little more than punctuation. But this does not necessarily mean it has lost its force in the world, it merely means that the speaker is illiterate. He either never had or has lost the power to express himself in language that has become little more than a single, monotonous gesture. There are many such people and determined realists may well feel they should be portrayed on television. Perhaps they should, but it should be clear that a person who casually uses "fuck" all the time is suffering from a form of degeneration as serious as the person who uses "nigger".

All of which is to say that words, like everything else, are laden with values. Specific contexts may change, but the language will always find ways of evaluating the world. Swear words are

Swearing is one small indicator that we are linked to other people, other sensibilities

exaggerated expressions of crisis. They indicate seriousness and urgency by evoking what is usually forbidden. But they also relativise the crisis. We may say "Jesus" or "fuck" when something bad happens, but, in doing so, we lower the temperature. Clearly whatever has gone wrong is not really as important as God or sex, so, by calling upon either, we reduce the status of the problem.

Swearing is, as I said, essential. I do it all the time. The air in this room is currently blue with the expletives I have uttered while writing this column and trying to ignore the ringing phone. But, if "fuck" and all the others were "only" words like any others, then this private, therapeutic act would not work. I would not feel that my cries bore enough weight to express my frustration. I would have to seek out another offensive vocabulary to preserve my equilibrium, such as it is.

But, whatever the vocabulary, it must be offensive. For swearing is one small indicator that we are connected to other people, other sensibilities. Swearing works because we are part of a society which, at some level, in some contexts, disapproves. The BSC is right to protest and Clunes is wrong to downgrade "fuck". For, if swearing becomes casual and meaningless, it stops being swearing. The language is impoverished. We become less, not more, free.

Children's tales of horror must be fully told

A national inquiry is the only way to expose the enormity of child abuse in homes, says Roger Dobson

The silence over the unspeakable horrors of sexual and physical abuse inflicted on hundreds and quite possibly thousands of young children in care has at last been broken. For years the scandal of homes that were infiltrated by paedophiles remained hidden by a cloak of secrecy. The victims kept quiet because of feelings of guilt instilled in them by their abusers, and the councils that carried out individual investigations kept their findings secret to avoid claims of compensation from victims.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the scale of the abuse remained hidden. Occasionally, when abusers were prosecuted and imprisoned, they were treated as rare cases, untypical of a "decent" caring system.

The first real evidence of abuse in children's homes emerged in the 1990s, with major inquiries into abuse at homes in Belfast, Staffordshire and Leicestershire.

Then, in 1990, claims of abuse in Cwylwydd and Gwynedd in North Wales surfaced and led to the biggest police investigation of its kind in Britain. More than 3,000 statements were taken and 300 cases were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service. The result? Just seven people were prosecuted. Subsequently, a team of childcare specialists, led by John Jilling, former director of social services in Derbyshire, were called in and spent two years investigating what went wrong in Cwylwydd.

They hoped that their report would be published so that childcare workers could learn from what had gone so catastrophically wrong. In the event they hoped for too much. Cwylwydd decided not to publish the report and the 300-page document still lies on the desk of Welsh Secretary William Hague.

It paints a horrifying picture of vulnerable children being abused on a regular basis, of desperate youngsters running away only to be returned to their abusers. Worse are the deaths of 12 young men that have been linked to their time in care in Cwylwydd. And in other parts of the country, young people have died as a result of their appalling experiences in a care system that failed so badly.

More than 200 children are thought to have been abused in homes in Cwylwydd, another 300 in neighbouring Cheshire, and more than 40 are seeking compensation in Leicestershire. Many other claims are in the pipeline, despite the quest to keep the abuse inquiry reports secret.

While councillors and ministers sit on their secret reports the tragedy goes on: the lives of many of those who survived the years of abuse have been ruined. Others have been turned into abusers themselves. As one man convicted of abusing his daughter said, "It was the only skill they left me with."

Paedophiles were able to infiltrate the care system because professional social workers regarded residential home jobs as second class. Ironically, the worst offenders ran the most apparently efficient homes and were never bothered by outsiders. Children who dared to complain were ignored.

A copy of the secret Cwylwydd report has been seen by the *Independent*. It talks of the possibility of paedophile rings, but so far the police have never been able to establish that such rings existed.

The scale of abuse, the deaths of so many young people, the ruined lives, and the suspicions of paedophile rings are all reasons why there has to be a national inquiry into what went on behind the doors of Britain's children's homes. And although the report may never see the light of day, at least now we can hope that the judicial inquiry may establish the failures that allowed such widespread abuse and expose the attempts to cover them up.

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Channel 5 talks to cable firms about retuning project

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Channel 5 Broadcasting is in advanced negotiations with UK cable operators over plans to retune millions of VCRs and set-top boxes before the Channel 5 service is launched in January.

If the talks succeed, cable companies such as Telewest, Nynex CableComms and Bell Cablemedia will visit homes in

their franchise areas on Channel 5's behalf to retune equipment, and could take the opportunity to market their own pay-TV services to current and potential cable customers.

Channel 5 Broadcasting, a consortium of Pearson, United News & Media (formerly MAI) and CLT, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, is also in negotiations with the country's two largest TV rental compa-

nies, Granada and Thorn EMI, to cover rental equipment in homes. Both companies would use their own staff, or temporary workers, to retune up to 4 million sets.

Granada has also reached a separate deal to train all retuners on behalf of Channel 5. The retuning exercise is viewed as one of the main obstacles to the success of the UK's last "free-to-air" TV chan-

nel. As many as 10 million homes in the UK will have to be visited, with about 5 million likely to be affected by interference from the playback signals of VCRs. Channel 5 originally planned to spend £30.8m to mount the operation, plus another £34.3m for marketing and administration, although TV rivals expect the amount could end up being far higher.

It is widely believed in industry circles that the retuning project is already well behind schedule and under-financed. Rivals for the licence bid double the amount set aside by Channel 5 Broadcasting, and most promised more supervisors and at least as many retuners for home visits.

"Everyone believes this has started too late," said an ITV insider, whose company will be

competing directly with Channel 5. "There has to be some question about whether they meet their targets in time."

According to ITC requirements, at least 90 per cent of homes in affected areas must be retuned before the service is switched on in early 1997. Audience share will be crucial to the channel's early months on the air, when it will be seeking to build core advertisers.

Channel 5 has yet to agree a price per household to be paid to cable operators and the rentals companies if the sub-contracting arrangements go ahead. According to sources close to the situation, cable operators want as much as £10 per household visited, while Channel 5 is offering far less.

Cable operators also differ over how many homes they want to cover. Some smaller

companies have offered to cover customer homes only, while others see the visits as a prime marketing opportunity.

Channel 5 is still reserving the right to limit the amount of "sub-contracting". It is concerned about security and cost, and may elect to oversee the entire retuning exercise itself.

Channel 5 declined to comment on the talks with Thorn and Granada.

New broom: Chief executive Bill Cockburn has swept away 1,100 jobs as he tries to draw a line under retail group's problems

Revamped WH Smith left £200m in the red

NIGEL COPE

Bill Cockburn, who only became chief executive of WH Smith in January, yesterday completed his sweeping overhaul of the struggling retail group that will see 1,100 job losses and exceptional charges of £285m.

The costs will push WH Smith about £200m into the red when it announces results in August, the first time in living memory that the 204-year-old company has recorded a loss.

The larger-than-expected costs amount to a "kitchen sink" of the accounts and mark an attempt by the new management to draw a line under the group's recent problems.

The group's most pressing concerns have centred on the core WH Smith chain, which has been struggling with low margins, stores cluttered with too many product lines, and increasing competition from the supermarket groups, which have stolen market share in newspapers, magazines, music and video.

Mr Cockburn said the plan was to restore the group to its rightful place on the high street by the end of the decade. "We are looking for a step change within four years. It is not a quick fix. We're dealing with the habits of a lifetime. That kind of transformation takes time."

Yesterday's announcement

was the final part of a five-month review of the business by Mr Cockburn, who joined from the Post Office in January.

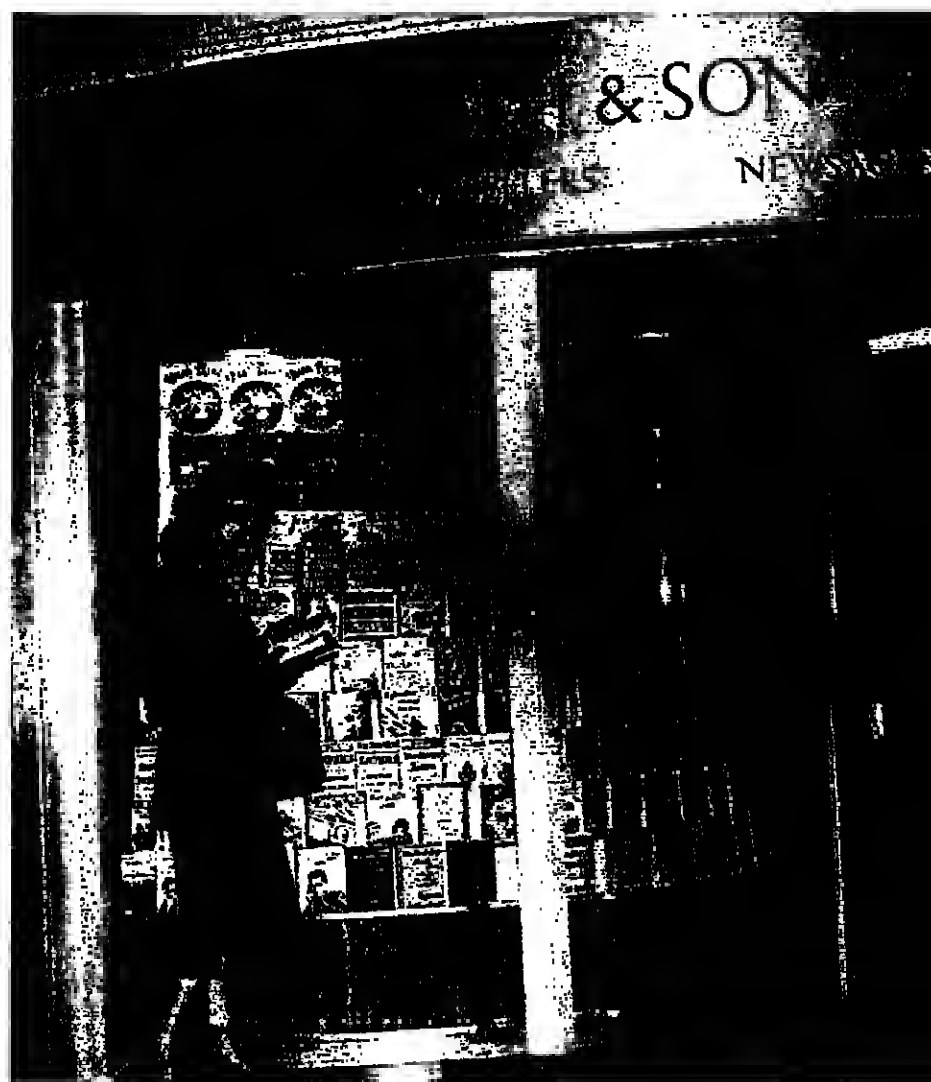
He has identified five divisions as core businesses. They are WH Smith retail, Virgin Our Price and Waterstones in the UK as well as the WH Smith stores in the US and The Wall, the 166-strong chain of music stores in the north-eastern US.

The newspaper distribution business, WH Smith News, is regarded as non-core but will not be sold as it generates good profits. The company had already ceded its half of Do It All DIY chain to Boots, its joint venture partner in a deal that has involved £160m of exceptional charges, and sold its Business Supplies office store business for £142m.

The remainder of the exceptional charges include £23m for stock write-offs and £23m for redundancies.

In the core WH Smith chain, the number of suppliers will be cut and the number of product lines reduced from 49,000 to 35,000 to free up space for new ranges. It will divide stores into four key areas: children's, entertainment, hobbies and leisure and Express.

This is a new venture that will see parts of stores devoted to sandwiches, drinks and other high-turnover items at special tills. It is possible WH Smith Ex-



press could be rolled out as a separate chain.

A further 80 Virgin Megastores will be opened in the next three years while 70 of the less profitable stores will be closed, reducing the total to just under 200. About 26 new branches of Waterstones will be added to the existing 100.

Of the 1,100 job losses, 300 will go to the retail headquarters in Swindon and a further 109 at the London headquarters behind Sloane Square, which will be closed. A smaller num-

ber will relocate to a cheaper London site. The remainder of the job losses were announced earlier this year. They include 580 at the news distribution division and 140 at the main retail business.

As the shares remained unchanged at 484p, analysts were divided on the plans. Nick Bubb of broker Mees Pierson said the "jury is out" on the initiatives though the company had "made all the right noises".

John Richards of NatWest Securities said: "There is still a

lot of work to be done on the core retailing operations."

WH Smith's current difficulties - which started with a profits warning last May - mark a low point in the group's history. It remains one of Britain's best known high street names along with Marks & Spencer and Boots. For many it is still one of the most trustworthy names for children's educational supplies, books and a vast selection of magazines.

But it has stumbled as the family-dominated management

failed to adapt to more competitive times, particularly competition from specialist chains and the supermarkets.

The stiff, insular nature of the family domination has not helped. While many of the family members have been removed from the highest offices, the Smith family still retains a dominant stake.

But most retail analysts believe that there is still a place on the high street for WH Smith. Clive Vaughan of Verdict Research says: "I wouldn't write

Difficult chapter in 200-year history

1792 - WH Smith founded by Henry Walton Smith and his wife Anna as a newspaper vendor in London. The Smith family regarded as one of the pioneers of mass-market retailing.

1901 - Chain grows to 1,240 bookstalls. Becomes known as the obvious destination for newspapers, magazines, stationery, books and writing accessories.

1961 - Sans newly launched 'Private Eye' magazine. Refuses to stock it until 1965.

1964 - Becomes a public company with stock exchange listing.

1980s - Expands into specialist chains by buying Waterstones booksellers and Virgin Our Price, the music group. Starts Do It All DIY chain. Later merges with Boots Payless DIY. Becomes known as WH Smith, due to its clubby, public school management and apparent feeling of superiority.

1995 - Alarm bells. WH Smith issues first profits warning in 15 years. Blames falling high street traffic and shift away from high margin products. The supermarkets add to the pain, grabbing Smith's share of music, magazine and book markets.

1995-96 - Axe falls on management including chief executive Sir Malcolm Field. Bill Cockburn brought in from Post Office. Undertakes radical review. 1,100 job losses, £285m provisions.

Benefit claims lowest in five years

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell last month to its lowest level for five years, yet underlying growth in earnings was unchanged in April. The only evidence to cast a shadow over benign jobs market figures yesterday was a decline in employment in the first few months of the year, especially in manufacturing.

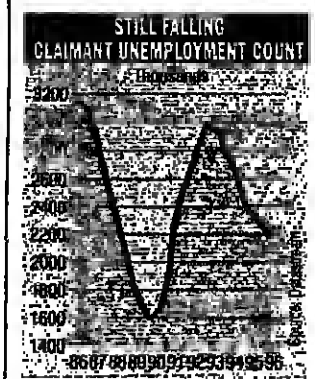
Michael Meacher, Labour's shadow employment minister, attacked the Government's record on unemployment.

"Job insecurity is rife and the outlook for manufacturing industry is bleak. Job creation in Tory Britain is a part-time phenomenon. It is now highly unlikely unemployment will continue to fall at its present rate for very much longer."

Labour called for planned government spending of £240m on small and medium businesses, due to be announced alongside today's competitiveness White Paper, to be spent directly on job creation.

However, employment minister Eric Forth welcomed last month's fall of 14,800 in the claimant count. "Few people are between jobs for very long."

The number claiming benefit fell to 2,167,600 or 7.7 per cent of the workforce. Joblessness has fallen by an average of 13,000 a month for the past six



Comment, page 19

Granada reveals timetable for disposals

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Granada has given itself 15 months to sell £1.5bn worth of unwanted assets inherited from its £3.9bn takeover of Forte.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, said yesterday. The disposal programme, which includes £1bn worth of Exclusive hotels, a stake in the Savoy Group, and about £300m for the Welcome motorway service stations, would bring earnings down to about 100 per cent from the currently high 389 per cent.

Charles Allen, chief executive, said the disposal timetable had been received positively by shareholders. "They share our confidence and frankly are quite comfortable," he said, unveiling Granada's first set of interim figures since the Forte victory.

Pre-tax profits were up a solid 19 per cent to £183m on turnover ahead 35 per cent to £1.5bn. All main operating units, including media, rentals and the restaurants business, showed gains, fuelled by tighter margins and early benefits from

the bringing together of the Granada and Forte assets.

"Forte is showing us very clearly that it can and will fulfil our expectations for increased profit," Mr Robinson said. During the acrimonious takeover battle, Granada promised to increase the profitability of Forte by £100m a year, and Mr Robinson claimed the company was already on track to do so.

Restaurants and services saw profit growth of 46 per cent to £62.3m year-on-year, on the £22.3m year-on-year, on the

strength of the Little Chef acquisition from Forte, a new menu with higher charges and the introduction of new formats at roadside and motorway service areas. Spending per head has risen by about 7 per cent since the new menu was introduced in late April.

Catering services saw growth in turnover of about 14 per cent, as profits climbed 27 per cent to £30m. The rentals division managed policy growth of about 5 per cent, underlining the lacklustre nature of what is a declining business in the UK.

On the disposal programme, Mr Allen said the 68 per cent stake in the Savoy would be sold "in co-operation with management". A Granada insider suggested a sale could be several months away. A 25 per cent stake in the Alpha airport catering services operations could be sold within a few weeks, however, to a trade buyer interested in mounting a bid for the entire company.

City interest has been directed toward the Welcome Break motorway services, which could generate as much as £300m. The operations had

been provisionally sold to Whitbread, the beer and catering giant, during the takeover battle. Granada is currently in talks with Whitbread that could lead to a deal, but both sides caution it could take some time.

Granada is seeking legal advice on whether it can overturn a "lock-out" clause in the provisional deal between Whitbread and Forte, which gave Whitbread a share in any profits above an agreed figure in the event the sales were sold to a third party. That clause runs out

in December. "We are of course open to a deal before then," a Granada source said. "But if nothing happens by December, I think we might be able to generate further interest from other buyers."

The group of 17 Exclusive hotels will probably go to four or five buyers, the company said. Sales memoranda have been sent to 75 applicants who have pre-qualified. They will be invited to look at confidential information prior to an auction.

Up for grabs are hotels such as the Grosvenor House in London, which had profits in the most recent financial year of about £20m, and could sell for as much as £300m.

Granada intends to keep the Meridian hotels, although a sale later has not been ruled out. The rest of the Forte hotels, principally the Posthouse, Crest, Heritage and Travelodge properties will be kept. Granada is currently rebranding the hotels, and has set up three main divisions - international, UK provincial and London. Mr Allen said the London properties were being marketed "almost as a single hotel," allowing joint promotion.

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Sainsbury's pays out £900,000 to Quarmby

PATRICK TOOHER

David Quarmby, the former joint managing director of supermarket giant Sainsbury's, pocketed almost £900,000 for loss of office while retaining his right to lucrative share options, according to the company's annual report. Sainsbury's is also scrapping its performance-related bonus scheme for a long-term incentive plan.

The news came as Sainsbury's announced that the launch of its first national supermarket loyalty card scheme will be next Monday. Called Reward, it is Sainsbury's belated attempt to win back customers from rivals such as Tesco, whose Clubcard now has 8.5 million members.

Mr Quarmby, who was on a two-year rolling contract, quit in March rather than take on a new role as managing director of group services following a radical management shake-up designed to revive Sainsbury's sagging profits and falling market share.

He received £336,000 for loss

of office and £556,000 in lieu of pension. Mr Quarmby is also being allowed to keep options on 396,000 shares with an average exercise price of 357p - worth more than £166,000 at yesterday's closing price of 399p.

Prior to the boardroom reshuffle, Mr Quarmby was number three in the Sainsbury's hierarchy behind chairman David Sainsbury and deputy chairman Tom Viner.

Sainsbury's announcement in January saw Mr Viner become chief executive of the core UK supermarkets business while Dino Adriano, head of the Homebase DIY subsidiary, was made chief executive designate, effectively marginalising Mr Quarmby's role.

Directors are forgoing their bonuses after Sainsbury's pre-tax profits fell 12 per cent to £712m in the year to March.

months. The decline last month was spread across all regions except East Anglia, where there was no change.

Yet the underlying growth of earnings remained unchanged at 3.75 per cent in April, even though actual earnings growth rose to 4 per cent and was also revised up to 4 per cent in March. Underlying pay growth fell to 4 per cent in manufacturing in April. But it was revised up to 3.5 per cent in services in February and March, and remained there in April.

City economists drew comfort from the fact that the overall figure was unchanged. Jonathan Loynes from HSBC Markets said: "Recent evidence of falling pay settlements bodes well for earnings." Some, however, thought a further pick-up in pay in service industries could take the headline figure higher in coming months.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FT-SE 100	3769.20	+13.50	+0.4	3957.10	3639.50
FTSE 250	4467.40	+5.10	+0.1	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1904.60	+5.80	+0.3	1945.40	1816.60
FT Small Cap	2241.07	+1.66	+0.1	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1890.50	+5.40	+0.3	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5693.41	+24.75	+0.4	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	22104.80	+287.18	+1.3	22282.05	19734.70
Hong Kong	10568.67	+34.88	+0.3	11584.98	10294.87
Frankfurt	2568.88	+22.53	+0.9	2570.78	2263.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
6.14	6.6	7.2	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Term (%)
6.14	6.6	7.2	3 Months	2 Years	Long Term (%)
6.14	6.6	7.2	6 Months	3 Years	(%) Year Ago
6.14	6.6	7.2	9 Months	4 Years	(%) Year Ago
6.14	6.6	7.2	12 Months	5 Years	(%) Year Ago

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Dollar	
1.52	2.41	162	Yesterday	Yesterday	Change
1.52	2.41	162	1 Month	1 Month	Year Ago
1.52	2.41	162	3 Months	3 Months	Year Ago
1.52	2.41	162	6 Months	6 Months	Year Ago
1.52	2.41	162	12 Months	12 Months	Year Ago

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The problem lies not so much with what investment bankers are prepared to pay as with what their clients are prepared to pay them

Double your money, the City poachers are back

No doubt about it, City salaries are once again a "phenomenon". The securities industry is enjoying its best year since 1993, when 100 London employees of Goldman Sachs took home \$1m apiece or more. And if that were not enough to send salaries soaring, there are also some aggressive new players in the market place, most notably Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, prepared to pay apparently silly money for sometimes quite mediocre talent. In combination, the two factors make a highly potent cocktail.

Nor is this a phenomenon confined to the star traders and analysts of the premier league. The first and second divisions are doing pretty nicely out of it too, thank you very much. Salaries across a wide spread of posts and companies are achieving unprecedented levels. Less than 150,000 people in Britain earn £100,000 a year or more; getting on for a half of these people may be in financial services of one form or another.

The rights and wrongs of this are one thing. Some will see it as a symptom of everything that's wrong with Britain, while others will view it as an example of British success. But whatever you think, it certainly will become an investment bank's complaint about poaching and spiralling salaries, as increasingly their senior executives do. For a start it's pure hypocrisy. Most of the critics continue to be guilty of "name your price" poaching tactics when it comes to the superstars.

Investment banks are in any case pure money-making machines. The best of them

provide their people with state of the art IT, as much capital as they need, and a top-drawer client list, but essentially it is still the traders, salesmen and analysts that make it happen. If the salaries are silly, it is because the margins and returns are silly too. Plainly it makes sense to poach, say, the top rated telecoms analyst at some insane salary if by doing so it helps win a major international telecoms privatisation issue which pays an insane fee. The problem lies not so much with what investment bankers are prepared to pay as with what their clients are prepared to pay them.

As for the proprietary trading operations, where the really big bucks are made, it's a free country and there's a going rate for the job. In a bumper year like this one, it's bound to be high. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell will no doubt live to rue the day it saddled itself with the very high fixed-cost salary structure it is presently building up. Many of the new recruits coming in at double their previous salaries are not stars at all; they belong to the marzipan layer of City traders and analysts. But then if it all goes wrong, that's Deutsche Bank's lookout.

Granada's day of reckoning will come

It is far too early to spoil Gerry Robinson's jolly party at Granada. He won his battle for Forté and has just unveiled sparkling re-

sults across all the divisions, cheering the City and causing even some of his fiercest opponents to grant he got the takeover bid right. Certainly that is what the share price says.

Even Mr Robinson's relaxed attitude toward disposals (when the time is right and not before; we shall not be rushed) is gaining him extra points, despite gearing at the end of the March of a whopping 389 per cent. The City is convinced he can get the £1.5bn promised without too much trouble through the sale of the Exclusives, the Savoy stake, Alpha and the Welcome Break service stations. That, along with Granada's hefty share of glittering satellite broadcaster BSkyB, will bring gearing down to about 100 per cent by next September. At that point, the cash being thrown off will be so excess to immediate needs that people will again be asking what Gerry is going to do with all that money.

But at that point a different chorus of criticism is likely to be heard. It becomes increasingly obvious to everyone - even Mr Robinson and his trusted chief executive, Charles Allen - that Granada as presently constituted simply does not make sense. What on earth do media, rentals, hotels and catering all have to do with each other? At the very least, the rentals operations should be spun off. It is in any case the slowest growing of the Granada businesses, despite all the cash it generates. TV rental will never achieve the ratings afforded to media (still growing now that Granada has launched into

satellite TV) or even the hotels and restaurants, which after the Granada treatment should begin to yield a reasonable return.

With Thorn EMI showing the way this summer, by spinning off its rentals division, Granada will soon be under pressure to do the same thing. That would leave a more logical company, and could even give Messrs Robinson and Allen some room to contemplate their next major acquisition. Who knows, if Pearson is still its old, unreconstructed self this time next year, maybe Granada could pounce there.

Until then, let the Granada team work its magic. Mr Robinson deserves some time to make sense of Forté. But the day of reckoning cannot be put off forever.

Still a long haul for WH Smith

The old timers at WH Smith must be wondering what's hit them. There they were chugging along happily, as they have done for the past couple of centuries. Smith's, they thought, was a law unto itself, an impenetrable fortress that could withstand the worst its piffing competitors could throw at it. Management were schooled in the Smith's tradition. That usually meant a stint at Eton and the Guards before going into what was still a family business.

But how an empire has crumbled. The game has been up since the profit warning

last May, when the company finally admitted that its core WH Smith chain was behaving less like a fortress and more like a house of cards. Customer traffic was down, sales of higher-margin goods were falling and the supermarkets were rolling their tanks onto the Smith's lawn by selling books, magazines and videos.

Since then the company has had to wake up fast. A new chief executive was brought in from the Post Office to replace Sir Malcolm Field. Bill Cockburn, a bustling Scot who knows a thing or two about under-achieving corporate cultures, has wasted no time shaking Smith's management by their old school ties. Two businesses sold, over 1,000 job losses and a lorryload of provisions will mean an undignified dive into the red this year.

Mr Cockburn should be given credit for a bold set of manoeuvres. But while his relinquishing of Do It All and the plans to grow Waterstones and Our Price are welcome, these are mere sideshows. What really matters is the main WH Smith chain. Plans to reduce supplier numbers and cut product lines are all very well but the key question is whether Mr Cockburn can re-establish the brand.

Besieged on all sides and with far lower margins than successful high street names such as Boots and Marks & Spencer, it's going to be a long haul. At worst, WH Smith will continue to decline, regardless of what Mr Cockburn does.

Clarke rejects 'Pot Noodle' model of economic growth

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The Chancellor of the Exchequer used his annual Mansion House speech in the City of London last night to deny that he was trying to create a pre-election boom.

"The economy is not like a Pot Noodle - just add hot water and stir," he said. "Creating healthy sustainable growth is a painstaking process."

The economy would be in good shape when the Prime Minister decided to call the election because the Government had found the recipe for economic success, he claimed.

Mr Clarke tried to hose down

backbench hopes for big tax cuts in the Budget. "To think that the electorate could be bribed by premature tax cuts is an insult to the intelligence of the British people," he said.

He also repeated his promise that he would raise interest rates if there was a real risk of missing the inflation target.

The Chancellor delivered a characteristically optimistic view of the economy, speaking of a "flexible, open, dynamic Britain".

His upbeat assessment was backed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Mr George said he hoped that after data for last year were revised it would turn out to be the

third year in which inflation had been lower than growth.

"It is a remarkable performance by our own past standards," Mr George said.

Although playing down the importance of precise forecasts of the economy, a few weeks before the Treasury is due to downgrade its forecast for growth this year, Mr Clarke said demand would continue to strengthen during the course of the year.

Mr Clarke also stressed the need for Britain to play an active role in the European Union. He said: "Economic strength will give us the ability to be powerful and influential members of the European



Upbeat assessment: Eddie George (left) backed Kenneth Clarke's positive view

Union, helping to shape the political rules and the very nature of the Single Market as it develops and enlarges."

The Chancellor reaffirmed his commitment to the existing framework of economic policy. He was sticking to his targets of a basic income tax rate of 20p and the eventual abolition of inheritance and capital gains tax. The government budget would be balanced in the medium

term, with public spending falling below 40 per cent of GDP.

The Government also remained committed to its 2.5 per cent target for underlying inflation. Mr Clarke said: "If I judge that there is scope for further interest rate cuts, consistent with my inflation objective, I will make further cuts."

"And I will not hesitate to put up interest rates if, as the econ-

omy strengthens, the economic data indicate that there is a real risk that I will not meet my inflation target."

Mr George defended the Bank of England against charges that it wanted to run a deflationary policy. Making interest rate decisions was not an exact science, he said, in a reference to speculation that he and Mr Clarke disagreed about the recent base rate cut.

IN BRIEF

• Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is to launch a new 100-channel satellite television service in Japan, featuring largely local programming. Mr Murdoch said in Tokyo yesterday. Promised within two years, the service, dubbed JSkyB, will compete directly with other satellite broadcasters. A pay-per-view movie channel, to be called Star Movies, will be launched by December, he added. News Corporation already owns Star TV, the Asian broadcaster, as well as 40 per cent of BSkyB in the UK and Fox Television in the US.

• Lucas, the motor components group merging with Vartec of the US, denied reports that its American defence operations remained under criminal inquiry for alleged quality-control lapses. "We do not have any details of any criminal investigation," a spokesman said.

• US consumer prices rose 0.3 per cent in May and 2.9 per cent in the year to May, in line with Wall Street expectations. "Core" prices were up 0.2 per cent, leaving underlying inflation unchanged at 2.7 per cent. The biggest increases were in energy and transport prices. Low increases in the prices of clothing and cars held the overall index down.

• Next, the high street retailing chain, has regained its place in the FTSE 100 share index after an eight-year absence. This marks the latest stage in the company's revival from almost oblivion in early 1991 when Next's share price collapsed to just 7p. The shares now trade at 556p, valuing the company at more than £2bn. Next just pipped the recently floated Railtrack for a place in the index. United News & Media and Orange will also be included in the FTSE 100 index from 24 June. The three companies dropping out are Greenalls Group, Retam and Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust.

• British Aerospace said its dynamics division and a consortium of European companies have submitted a bid to supply air-to-air missiles for the RAF's new combat aircraft, Eurofighter 2000. Other companies in the consortium include GEC Marconi Radar Defence Systems, Matra Defense, Alenia, Saab and LFK.

• FG Wilson (Engineering), which has been acquired by Caterpillar Inc, said it expects to create 1,533 new jobs as a result of a £1.13m, five-year investment programme in Northern Ireland. The company said the jobs would be created at five sites in Larne, County Antrim, Belfast and Monkstown. The plants, part-funded by £36.4m in grants from the Industrial Development Board, will make diesel-powered generators.

• National Westminster Bank has reached a preliminary agreement to sell to Banco Sabadell about 80 per cent of its retail and commercial bank in Spain. Banco NatWest Espana. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Banco Sabadell will acquire both BNWE, which will operate under a new name, and its regional subsidiary in north-west Spain, Banco de Asturias. BNWE has more than 1,300 employees, and operates 200 branches in Spain.

Andersen considers hiving off consulting arm

ROGER TRAPP

Arthur Andersen is carrying out a radical review of its operations that may lead to the hiving off of Andersen Consulting, the fast-growing consultancy that last year had \$4bn (£2.6bn) in fee income.

The development comes as General Motors is about to spin off EDS, the information technology outsourcing business that was founded by Ross

Perot, amid speculation that winning long-term deals to supply computer and finance services to large public and private-sector organisations requires greater capital investment than is available to private partnerships.

Andersen Consulting, which increased its world-wide revenues by 24 per cent last year, has, like EDS, grown rapidly in recent years on the back of the trend for companies to trans-

fer responsibility for IT and other non-core activities to specialist suppliers.

Andersen recently agreed an extensive deal with the Sears retail group and earlier this week announced a 10-year contract to carry out the finance functions for Exel Logistics, part of NCC.

A spokesman said that the global firm, known as the Arthur Andersen Worldwide Organisation, had launched an

initiative to look at long-term options, under which a small group of partners had been told to go away and "think as radically as they like". Separating the two operations would probably be one issue under discussion, though nothing had been decided yet. The group would report to all the partners later in the year.

Tensions over the profit-sharing arrangements between the main accounting firm and

the consulting business and the confusion created by the accounting firm's increasing moves into consultancy are thought to be behind pressure for a split, according to today's *Accountancy Age*.

However, rivals believe that the review could recommend a closer relationship between the various parts of the Chicago-based organisation. At the moment, Andersen Consulting stands on its own within the

world-wide organisation, which last year billed \$8.1bn, while Arthur Andersen comprises the main accounting business, plus the Binder Hamlyn accountancy firm acquired last year and various law firms, including in Britain, Garrett & Co.

"The trend is to offer a seamless global service. It's a bit out of kilter with that to have one consulting arm and another part also doing consulting," one source said.

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE INDEPENDENT

Today is the final day of our cinema offer. To celebrate 100 years of British cinema we have linked up with Odeon Cinemas to offer all readers two tickets for the price of one at participating Odeon Cinemas throughout the UK. Among the films showing are *Primal Fear*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Mr Holland's Opus*, *Muppet Treasure Island*, *Spy Hard*, *The Birdcage*, *Copycat*, *Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead*, *Toy Story*, *Executive Decision* and more.

How to Qualify
The offer is valid until Thursday 13 June 1996. Simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the thirteen printed. Our last token, Token 13 is printed today. Attach them to your final voucher which was printed yesterday. Then take the voucher to a participating Odeon Cinema to qualify for your free cinema ticket when you purchase another. To find out where your local Odeon Cinema is simply call Talking Pages on 0800 600900.

Now And Then (certificate PG) stars Melanie Griffiths, Demi Moore, Rosie O'Donnell and Rita Wilson in a nostalgic and funny portrait of how one Summer set in motion the adult lives of four remarkable women. In 1970 they made a friendship pact as the not-so-innocent world of childhood



adventure was cracked by the reality of divorce and the spectre of a 25 year old murder mystery. Now they gather together to solve one final mystery: how the girls they were at 12 could have become the women they are now.

From Dusk Till Dawn (certificate 18), tells the story of the notorious Gecko Brothers (George Clooney & Quentin Tarantino), two of America's most dangerous criminals, on

the run from the Texas police and the FBI after a crime spree through the South-west. Also starring are Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis.

In Muppet Treasure Island (certificate U), the Muppets are back and ready to cast off and set sail on their zaniest adventure ever, as they encounter pirates, buried treasure and some angry warhogs, in Walt Disney Pictures' all-new, live-action, musical feature.

Spy Hard (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent WD-40, a.k.a. Steele - Dick Steele in a comedy of high-voltage adventure, high-tech gadgetry and low-brow humour.

In Toy Story (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

Up Close And Personal (certificate 15) stars Michelle Pfeiffer as Tally Arwater, a articulate, sophisticated and charming newscaster. She is a familiar and comforting face to millions of network TV news viewers. Going from small-town weathergirl to prime-time network anchor she was aided and abetted by Warren Justice (Robert Redford) a brilliant older oesman, her mentor and lover. Their romance is intense and exhilarating yet each breaking story threatens to drive them apart.



Up Close and Personal

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2. The voucher is only valid for admission to any film showing at Odeon Cinemas between 3 June - 13 June 1996.
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4. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
5. Odeon standard terms and conditions of purchase apply.
6. The voucher may not be used for telephone bookings and does not give the holder preference over other customers.
7. Odeon Cinemas reserve the right to refuse admission.
8. This offer does not apply to Odeon Leicester Square & Mezzanine, and the Odeon West End.
9. Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.

THE INDEPENDENT



ODEON CINEMAS

business

British Land banks on Broadgate

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

British Land was feeling understandably pleased with itself yesterday. The Jeremiahs were lining up last year to warn about the acquisitive property group's wisdom in paying £120m for the half of the prestigious Broadgate development in the heart of the City of London that it did not already own.

Their main concern was the adverse impact Broadgate might have on the group's balance sheet. In taking on Broadgate's £800m of debt, British Land's gearing was forecast to reach 135 per cent, prompting fears that asset sales and debt refinancing would be needed to pay the onerous interest bill and keep both the dividend covered and shareholders happy.

With hindsight, the timing of that deal—at a low point in the interest rate cycle—looks good. Thanks to new bank facilities, some 83 per cent of debt is fixed, mainly for terms of at least five years at under 8 per cent. British Land also raised £223m in a share placing last November to fund the purchase of seven Tesco supermarkets and three Scottish retail parks. All told, British Land has raised or renegotiated £1.5bn in new money since September 1994.

The net result was to limit net debt at the March year-end to 115 per cent of shareholders' funds. True, interest and dividend cover remain thin. A £138m interest bill made a sizeable dent in operating profits of £204m last year, while earnings per share were higher at 11.9p, up from 8.12p before. However, these ratios still compare favourably with many elsewhere in the sector. And the period of hectic corporate activity has left British Land in a strong strategic position. Some 89 per cent of its portfolio has been acquired in the last seven-and-a-half years, limiting exposure to obsolete properties, while about a fifth of rents have built-in rises guaranteed.

British Land is also highly geared to any recovery in the property market. Net assets per share increased to 426p from 417p last year, but the company calculates that every 10 per cent rise in the value of its property portfolio translates into growth of over 100p in net asset value per share.

Broadgate, which is fully let to a blue-chip tenant list of leading international banks, now makes up about a quarter of the revalued property portfolio, which rose by £84m to £4.4bn, while City of London sites, including the Ludgate development, equal 40 per cent of assets.

Sticking to Britain and Ireland also seems to make sense given the difficulties of managing properties overseas, especially in the US.

The shares, up 13p to 420p, fully reflect the growth prospects and are nudging the revised net asset value figure. But the premium rating is deserved. Hold.

Meyer heads out of the woods

Meyer International is at last showing signs of emerging from the gloom in which nearly all its operations have been immersed since early last year. Last year's 15 per cent plunge in timber prices, which caused so much pain in the forest products drifter importing business, seems to have bottomed out since April. Meanwhile, decisive management action is successfully starting to address the impact of a still dull housebuilding market on the main builder's merchants chain.

Yesterday's figures, however, show how serious the damage has already been. Pre-tax profits crashed from £51.6m to just £1.1m in the year to March. Stripping out an unexpected tax

credit, exceptional costs came in at a higher than expected £37.3m, and even before those charges, underlying profits from continuing operations slid 26 per cent to £44.4m.

With luck, the worst should be over. The sale of timber and merchanting operations in the US and Germany will eliminate losses totalling around £2m. More importantly, the £22.3m investment programme to revamp the Jewsons chain of UK merchants is showing benefits. Excluding the cost of axing 500 jobs last year, margins grew from 5 to 5.9 per cent. Next year could see the virtuous circle of Jewson winning back some of its lost market share while boosting margins to approaching the 7.5 per cent enjoyed by Travis Perkins, the industry pacesetter.

Sentiment should be improved by yesterday's appointment as chief operating officer of Alan Peterson, who joined the board a year ago from BTR's Rockware glass business. It would be better still if Meyer sold the volatile forest products business, which saw its profits slump from £23.4m to £13.8m last year, but John Dobby, chief executive, has firmly ruled that out.

Hopes that a rival like Wolsley or Harrison & Crosfield might do the job for him explain the recent run-up in Meyer's shares. But a bidder might have difficulty extracting more value than existing management, while the market could still turn down again.

Profits rising from, say, £45m this year to close to £60m next would put the shares, down 4p to 411p, on a forward multiple of around 14. Hold.

Bio babes board cash bandwagon

Two more biotechnology companies jumped on the cash-raising bandwagon yesterday. Cantab Pharmaceuticals' call for £25.7m in a placing was merely confirmation of an announcement it made last month. The deal will help finance further development of Cantab's novel cancer and infectious disease therapy based on stimulating the sufferer's own immune system. Given that the group is using cash at the rate of around £8.5m a year, the new money, coming on top of £8.6m in the bank, should see it through to its first product being launched on the market at the end of the century.

A more interesting move was yesterday's decision by Celltech to sell its Biologics drug manufacturing business to Alusuisse-Lonza of Switzerland in a £77m deal. The disposal will leave Celltech with one of the strongest balance sheets in the sector, clearing out most of the group's borrowings and eventually bringing in £50m in cash, to add to £20m already in the bank.

But it has left analysts puzzled. Celltech always looked a low-risk bet on biotechnology, partly because drug manufacturing provided a more secure revenue stream. Unlike other biotechnology "businesses," Biologics was profitable, turning in £2.1m last year on sales of £15.1m.

Celltech is turning that logic on its head, saying the drug manufacturing side is in fact entering a period of much higher risk. The company claims to have been flagging its intention to dispose of the business for about a year, but the question must be what it does with the money. Research and development spending is unlikely to rise much above last year's £17m and Celltech could move into modest profit by 1998 as drug revenues of over £60m start to roll in. Despite yesterday's 37p jump in the shares to 645p, potential investors should exercise caution until the strategy becomes clearer, lest it decides on a spending spree.

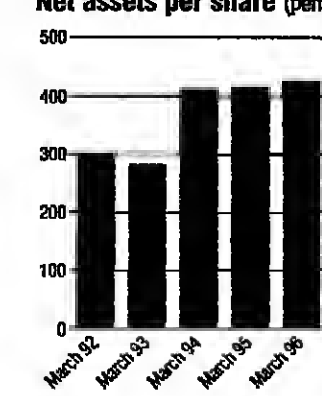
British Land: at a glance

Market value: £1.81bn, share price 420p

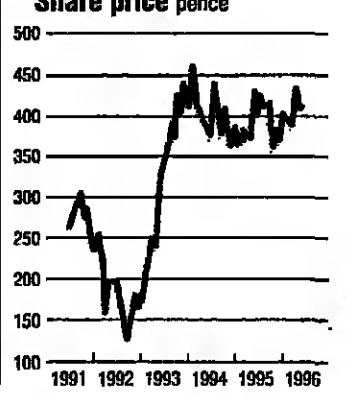
Five-Year record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£m)	103	119	126	157	203
Pre-tax profits (£m)	33.3*	27.2	53.9	49.1	62.1
Earnings per share (pence)	10.7*	8.4	11.4	8.4	11.2
Dividends per share (pence)	5.96	6.57	7.48	8.12	8.55

*Not adjusted for FRSE

Net assets per share (pence)



Share price pence



Source: Datastream

BAA hits back over 'monopoly'

PATRICK TOOHER

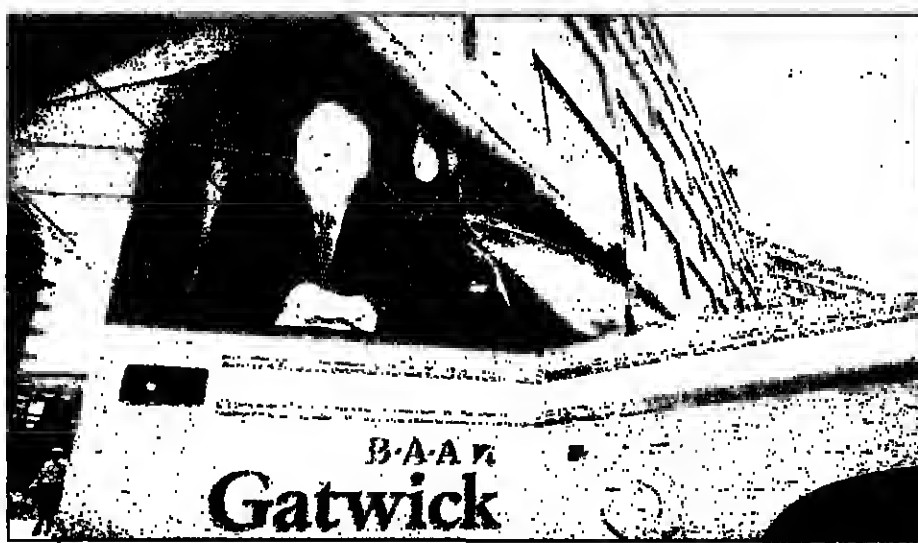
BAA's chief executive, Sir John Egan, yesterday hit back at a recent MPs' report which recommended that the company should be stripped of its stranglehold on London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. The all-party House of Commons Select Committee on transport last month called for a five-year review, now being conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority. BAA's regulator, and the Monopolies Commission, to re-examine whether BAA should remain in control of all three airports or see Stansted and Gatwick operated separately.

But Sir John hit back: "Talk of a monopoly is misleading. BAA has five runways in the South-east—the same number

as Schiphol in Amsterdam, the difference being that Schiphol runways are on one site instead of three."

Ownership of the three main South-east airports was "an old chestnut", Sir John argued. "It was on the agenda in 1987 and again in 1992 as part of the regulatory review. On both occasions it was rightly concluded that the UK obtains the most benefit from BAA operating three airports in one airport system." Sir John was speaking as BAA, operator of seven airports in Britain, unveiled a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £418m in the year to March. The figures included a £15m one-off gain on property disposals. Turnover rose 8 per cent to £1.25bn.

UK airport passenger traffic rose by 6.7 per cent to 93.6 mil-



Confronting critics: Sir John Egan of BAA

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

lion and Sir John forecast total growth in the current year of between 4 and 5 per cent.

BAA was outbid last week by Swissair for the Alders international duty-free retailing arm, but Sir John said the company was right not to try to rival the Swiss offer of £160m.

The CAA is studying a new formula to cap the charges BAA can levy on airlines using London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

Under the present five-year formula, which runs out in April next year, charges in the current year must fall by one

percentage point below British inflation. Past caps have required falls of up to 8 percentage points below inflation.

The uncertain regulatory situation has cast a cloud over BAA's share price in recent weeks. The stock closed down 8p yesterday at 478p.

Monsoon goes for listing

NIGEL COPE

Monsoon, the women's fashion retailer, is to seek a stock market listing later this summer, which will value the company at around £250m.

Best known for an upmarket range of clothing with an ethnic image, Monsoon has 84 branches in the UK with a further 13 overseas. It operates a further 52 branches under the Accessorize name, which specialises in fashion accessories, such as hats, scarves and jewellery. Last year the company recorded profits of £12.9m on sales of £62.1m. The directors believe both Monsoon and Accessorize have scope for further expansion.

The company's major shareholder, an overseas-based independent trust which holds 67 per cent of the shares, is seeking to realise the value of part of its stake. No new money will be raised from the listing, which will be achieved by way of a placing.

Monsoon was founded in 1972 by Peter Simon who hatched the idea for the ethnic look while travelling. It opened its first shop in Beauchamp Place in Knightsbridge. Mr Simon sold two-thirds of the shares to the investment trust in 1992 and 1993.

IN BRIEF

• **Hardy Oil & Gas** reported pre-tax losses slashed from £27.2m to £5.96m in the year to March. The figures were without £25m of reorganisation costs and provisions charged last time, but the group said the results also benefited from a 7 per cent increase in production and higher oil and gas prices. Unit costs were unchanged. Hardy's production will increase when phase one of the Banff development begins this year, with field production set to start in 1998.

• **Blick**, the electronic equipment group, was upbeat yesterday as it unveiled a 16 per cent rise in profits to £7m for the year to March. PAC, acquired in January, had performed strongly in its first two months and with the recent purchase of Teletelcom of the Netherlands, "we are making good progress with our development strategy", the company said.

• **Fibernet Group**, which supplies high-speed digital optical fibre networks, is raising £10m in a flotation on the alternative investment market. The placing of 30 per cent of the enlarged capital at 100p a share will value the group at £27.2m. The new money will be used to accelerate the development of a national digital network. Fibernet reported operating profits before certain start-up costs of £595,000 last year.

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover	Pre-tax	EPS	Dividend
Am. Street Brewery (F)	76.6m (73.3m)	6.18m (5.84m)	35.75p (34.30p)	16.52p (17.52p)
BAA (F)	-	418m (368m)	36.25p (27.2p)	11.25p (10.15p)
Black (F)	38.1m (36.8m)	7.06m (6.05m)	16.4p (14.19p)	4.5p (4p)
British Water (F)	65.4m (61.1m)	12.1m (9.67m)	124.5p (85.57p)	45.5p (36.5p)
British Land (F)	-	42.1m (40.1m)	11.2p (8.4p)	8.55p (8.12p)
Cheniering (F)	40.9m (34.2m)	2.84m (2.44m)	12.06p (10.53p)	3.76p (3.56p)
Expro Int'l (F)	82.2m (70.0m)	14.3m (8.1m)	17.8p (13.7p)	7p (5p)
Goldborough Health (F)	32.0m (24.4m)	3.18m (3.04m)	8p (6.5p)	1.25p (1.2p)
Hardy Oil & Gas (F)	63.3m (61.4m)	-5.96m (-27.2m)	-5.8p (-2.4p)	1p (1p)
Manchester Brewery (F)	147m (134m)	18.4m (17.4m)	20.62p (19.46p)	5.5p (5.2p)
Meyer (F)	1.22bn (1.30bn)	38.4m (51.6m)	10.8p (28.9p)	11.5p (11.6p)
Orbit (F)	18.7m (17.7m)	1.52m (0.20m)	2.64p (1.5p)	0.325p (0.525p)
Orbitone Int'l (F)	90.8m (81.0m)	19.9m (15.8m)	30p (25.2p)	15p (14p)
Standard Platform (F)	0.72m (0.70m)	-0.43m (-0.31m)	1.4p (1.5p)	Nil (-)
Starling Group (F)	98.4m (88.8m)	6.1m (6.1m)	4.68p (4.41p)	2.2p (2.05p)
WT Foods (F)	23.0m (22.0m)	0.5m (1.58m)	0.48p (2.76p)	1.35p (2.5p)
Windsor (F)	25.2m (23.2m)	2.71m (1.87m)	2.13p (3.11p)	0.25p (-)

(F) - Fiscal (M) - Month (Q) - Nine months

BA code-sharing deal must face European scrutiny

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The European Commission yesterday gave warning that it will scrutinise Tuesday's code sharing pact between American Airlines and British Airways as both sides continued to tie up smaller deals around the world.

The deal between the two airlines, ranked among the top

three in the world, is set to create one of the strongest combinations in air travel, with control of 60 per cent of all London to New York traffic. The alliance is already facing an anti-trust probe in the US and British Airways chief executive Robert Ayling expressed a hope on Tuesday that the European Commission would not

also need to vet the venture. But a statement from the Commission yesterday said it would have to vet the latest agreement and any others to ensure they were compatible with EU competition rules. Transport spokeswoman Sarah Lambert said: "We have to see the details and it is obviously going to be a fairly lengthy process."

News of the EU intervention came as BA announced a new franchise deal with the South African regional airline Comair in only the second such deal by the British group outside the UK. Comair will remain a separate independent company, but in line with other franchisees, its fleet will be painted in the BA livery.

Meanwhile, American Airlines announced that it had reached a code-sharing agreement with Singapore Airlines on the Singapore-Chicago route. The Commission yesterday pressed again for a global "open skies" agreement between the EU and the US, a move which has so far been opposed by a majority of EU states.

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سكنا من الأصل

business

In the long run, productivity makes the difference

It is the time of year when the Government launches its White Paper. The time released today will not doubt be another reiteration of the message that we must all try a bit harder.

It is worth stepping back, however, and asking what it means to talk about an economy's competitiveness. A bit of reflection shows that it cannot mean the same as a country's competitiveness, although that is how many people think of it. Indeed, it is the first of the annual White Papers was subtitled: "Helping Business To Win".

For a company, there are some straightforward indicators of competitive strength. They would include sales growth and market share, cost ratios and profit margins. These measures work as indicators because they can be compared easily for competing companies.

For a country, on the other hand, do not compete with each other in the same way. Not only is it harder to measure, say, levels of costs or shares in export markets, it is not obvious how to interpret the results. Unlike companies, countries do not go out of business. As the Stanford University economist Paul Krugman puts it: "Countries have no well-defined bottom line."

Is Germany now less competitive because it has high labour costs? As the table shows, its hourly wage costs are well ahead of those in other countries. Perhaps, but these also reflect the rewards for past productivity gains. Germans are more prosperous as a result of past hard work, and even if the economy is in trouble now, it is hard to argue that more productive labour should not be more expensive.

ECONOMIC VIEW
DIANE COYLE

More fundamentally, international competition helps rather than harms countries as a whole. Although groups within a country can lose out through trade, the economy as a whole always benefits. More trade means higher exports, employment and growth, along with cheaper imports to the benefit of consumers.

It is only when an overvalued exchange rate means a country has a

high trade deficit for an extended period—as the US did in the early 1980s—that the employment and growth effects of trade are negative. Moreover, it is hard to dislodge the mercantilist notion that exports are good, imports bad. From the point of view of economic well-being this is wrong. Imports are good too—think how cheap electronics. I for one would not feel better off without my microwave, stereo, home computer and washing machine.

So how should a country's competitiveness be assessed? Its trade position vis à vis other countries is obviously one possibility, although it ought to be the entire current account balance, including interest, profit and dividend earnings and services trade as well as the headline grabbing visible trade balance.

However, most industrial countries have run trade deficits or surpluses that, averaged over the long period of time, have amounted to very small proportions of their GDP. The reason is that persistent imbalances tend to be corrected by exchange rate movements.

Looking at the nominal exchange rate alone would paint a dire picture of Britain's economic performance. The pound might have risen a pence in 1995 and 1996, but over the long term its history is one of unremitting decline. In 1970 a pound bought nearly DM9 worth of German goods. However, a fall in sterling does not

boost exports if it is mirrored in higher domestic inflation. The exchange rate adjusted for inflation rates here and abroad has not sunk as dramatically, for British inflation has been higher on average than that of our competitors.

The Bank for International Settlements this week published its estimates of real exchange rates calculated using growth in labour costs per unit of output rather than price inflation. This measure of competitiveness has changed only a little for the UK during the past five years, as the chart shows.

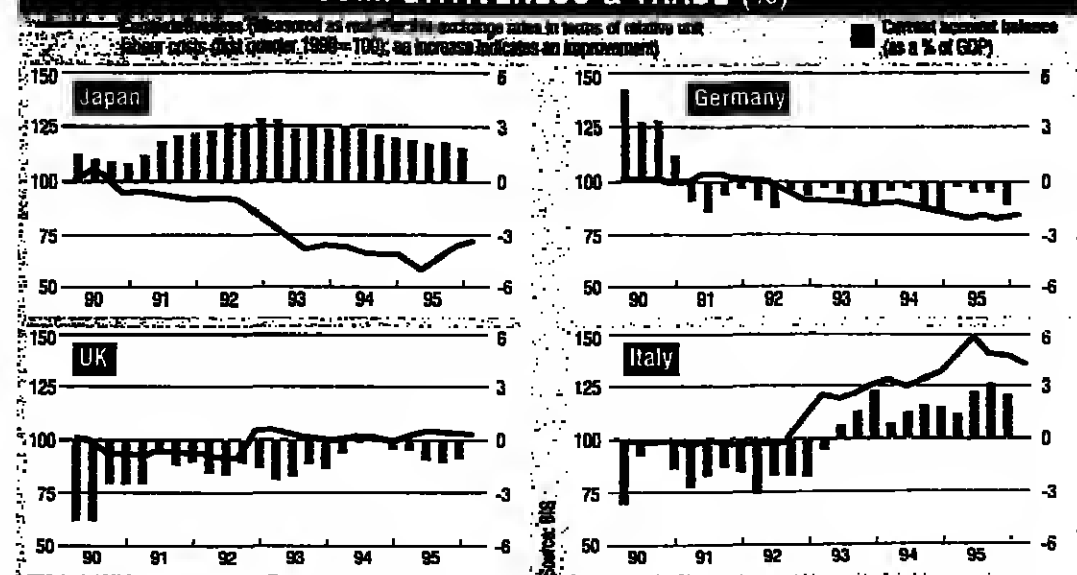
Although it did improve in September 1992, the gain was far less dramatic than in Italy, whose nominal exchange rate tumbled at the same time. The reason is that UK labour costs rose in the UK in 1994 and 1995, whereas they declined in most other industrial countries.

Unit labour costs in the UK fell 0.2 per cent in 1993, but were flat the following year and rose 3.3 per cent in 1995 but then fell 2.7 per cent and 4.3 per cent. Germany and Japan, both strong-currency countries, have suffered a deterioration in this measure since 1990.

The growth in unit labour costs is equal to wage inflation less productivity growth. It increases when pay rises are not matched by improvements in productivity. As wage inflation has been low by historical standards in Britain, productivity performance must be the key.

This detour through trade as a way of measuring national competitiveness has returned to the point at which economic theory would have begun to monitor a country's prosperity. Looking at export performance or Britain's declining share of

COMPETITIVENESS & TRADE (%)



world trade in manufactures is a diversion. The lesson of history is that in the long run living standards rise in line with productivity growth.

Economists tend to describe anything that boosts productivity—anything that produces more output per unit of input—as “technical change”. But it is more complicated than this makes it sound. As well as innovations in technology this also includes new efficiencies. One example was the organisation of production in assembly lines earlier this century.

Another more recent—and more contentious—example would be the shake-up of labour market institutions by Britain's Conservative governments. Reducing union power and introducing more flexibility

have, arguably, raised productivity and potential growth.

The institutional framework in which businesses operate is one aspect of the economy a government can try to change to enhance productivity. Another is education. Here Britain trails most other industrial countries in both quality and numbers in further education.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—a big fan of the flexible labour market—recently pinpointed upgrading the skill levels of the workforce as the main challenge facing Britain. “Relatively low levels of human capital probably were, and continue to be, one of the main factors explaining the low level of per capita GDP in

the United Kingdom,” compared with other industrial countries.

Government measures had cut the number of unqualified 16-19-year-olds entering the jobs market, the OECD noted. But it concluded that attainment levels lagged well behind those in our main competitors. Not surprisingly, the Government's skills audit published yesterday reached the same conclusion.

No doubt today's White Paper will contain another list of pledges on education and training. It needs to. Britain's competitiveness and prosperity can be improved either by reducing the number of badly educated people employed—or the pattern in recent years—or by educating the workforce better.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5345	6.4	11.8	1000	—	—
Canada	2.0973	1.3	5.37	13688	2.1	2.0
Germany	2.2575	5.44	35.37	15383	26.34	84.81
France	2.2921	10.20	394.363	52063	73.68	217.207
Italy	2.2783	58.73	165.189	4548	44.51	23.35
Japan	167.99	75.70	225.218	10947	45.44	136.133
ECU	1.2401	15.11	49.10	12375	7.4	23.25
Belgium	48.51	24.48	28.28	81.91	6.6	23.725
Denmark	50.927	85.321	491.386	55255	85.65	270.920
Netherlands	26.592	86.62	206.82	1789	35.32	107.102
Ireland	0.9471	7.3	20.14	15754	4.7	10.72
Norway	10.72	10.50	310.200	65636	42.17	110.80
Spain	16.613	21.31	69.06	29527	23.27	84.923
Sweden	10.301	0.4	6.745	58.22	10.74	37.706
Switzerland	1.9471	54.46	165.32	12650	37.34	118.107
Australia	1.9388	20.31	67.85	12634	19.21	54.58
Hong Kong	1.1879	0.01	234.70	7216	2.12	15.35
Malaysia	3.8240	0.4	0.4	21820	4.14	60.80
New Zealand	2.2776	42.57	133.60	14.84	30.32	60.80
South Africa	5.7552	0.0	0.0	37505	2.7	9.14
Singapore	2.1629	0.0	0.0	14085	41.30	103.88

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	153.00	—	—	Chile	153.00	—	—
Australia	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Colombia	153.00	—	—
Brazil	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Costa Rica	153.00	—	—
China	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Czech Republic	153.00	—	—
Egypt	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Denmark	153.00	—	—
Finland	1.5345	6.4	11.8	France	153.00	—	—
Greece	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Germany	153.00	—	—
India	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Hong Kong	153.00	—	—
Kuwait	1.5345	6.4	11.8	Italy	153.00	—	—

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subtract from spot rate to add to spot rate.
 *Dollar rates quoted as ticks (1/16) or 1/32.
 For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0801 223 0033.
 Cable cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Belgium	5.75%	Spain	5.25%	Canada	2.50%
Denmark	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Switzerland	3.50%
Netherlands	2.50%	Denmark	3.25%	Rwanda	6.00%

Bond Yields

Country	Yield	Country	Yield	Country	Yield
UK	7.1%	Germany	6.0%	Netherlands	5.1%
France	6.7%	Italy	6.0%	Spain	6.0%
Belgium	6.7%	Sweden	6.0%	Switzerland	4.5%
Denmark	6.7%	Canada	6.0%	USA	6.7%
Australia	6.7%	Japan	6.0%	South Africa	6.7%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Belgium	5.75%	Spain	5.25%	Canada	2.50%
Denmark	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Switzerland	3.50%
Netherlands	2.50%	Denmark	3.25%	Rwanda	6.00%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	6.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	4.50%	Japan	5.00%
Belgium	5.75%	Spain	5.25%	Canada	2.50%
Denmark	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Switzerland	3.50%
Netherlands	2.50%	Denmark	3.25%	Rwanda	6.00%

Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15

Life FT-SE Index Options

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15

Energy

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15

Commodity Indices

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Gilt	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Euro	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Long Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15
Short Yen	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15	105.15

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AAA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers	7223	8222	261	Managed Fund	7223	8222	261	Managed Fund	7223	8222	261	Managed Fund	7223	8222	261
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F1
RACING

THE INDEPENDENT

PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



PIT PASS

**GRAND PRIX
'96 RACE
SCHEDULE**

Canadian GP
June 16
French GP
June 30
British GP
July 14
German GP
July 28
Hungarian GP
August 11
Belgian GP
August 25
Italian GP
September 8
Portuguese GP
September 22
Japanese GP
October 13

WIN a drive in a **grand prix** car

Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

Formula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the coming season.

Even though the grand prix season has started, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes for each race.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category. Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE
Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers.

All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

- The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.
- Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.
- Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.
- If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.
- If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.
- If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.
- If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.
- The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.
- Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost.
- Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.
- Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.
- Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.



DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the Canadian Grand Prix will win a day out testing with the Tyrrell Formula One team at Silverstone.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

You will also need to complete our tickraker. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win. Complete the coupon on the right and send it to the address shown.

RULES:

1. Photocopies of coupons are not acceptable.
2. There is no limit to the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be entered per postal application.
3. The Judge's decision is final, on correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.
4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.
5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the Irish Republic or the UK.
6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 700lbs.
7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.
8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.
9. Helpline: +44 1275 344183.
10. Postal entries not received by 1st post on the Monday following a particular race, will not be included in that race unless clearly postmarked, at the latest, the previous Friday. Entries missing this deadline will still be eligible for entry for the main prize and will be awarded points accordingly.

11. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. Newspaper Publishing plc will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post.

12. Any teams that are over budget or do not include a £1m driver will be deemed invalid and not entered into the game.

The Independent Formula 1 Dream Team coupon

Send your completed coupon to: The Independent/Formula 1 Dream Team, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Road, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 7RQ, UK.

Tickraker: How many points will the winning driver notch up over the season?

Team Name: _____

Team Details: _____

Driver 1 No: _____ Name: _____

Driver 2 No: _____ Name: _____

Driver 3 No: _____ Name: _____

Chassis No: _____ Name: _____

Engine No: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime Tel No: _____

Make your selection from the Grand Prix

DRIVERS
£25m
1. M. Schumacher
£25m
2. J. Alesi
£25m
3. D. Hill
£25m
4. G. Berger
£18m
5. D. Coulthard
£18m
6. E. Irvine
£18m
7. J. Villeneuve
£18m
8. M. Hakkinen
£18m
9. N. P. Fitts
£18m
10. M. Brundle
£18m
11. R. Barrichello

£12m
12. J. Herbert
£12m
13. M. Salo
£12m
14. P. Larri
£12m
15. P. Durr
£12m
16. U. Katajama
£12m
17. J. Verstappen
£12m
18. D. Pavia
£12m
19. T. Badoer
£12m
20. R. Fossel
£12m
21. A. Modenini
£12m
22. G. Fisichella
£12m
23. V. Sponzi
£12m
24. T. Marzouk

£25m
25. F. Lagorce
£25m
26. F. Noda
£25m
27. T. Inoue
£18m
28. M. Brundell
£18m
29. J. C. Boulton
£18m
30. K. Brack
£18m
31. K. Burt
£18m
32. E. Collari
£18m
33. N. Fontana
£18m
34. D. Franchitti
£18m
35. M. Larini
£18m
36. J. Magnussen
£18m
37. A. Prost
£18m
38. G. Tarquin
£18m
39. K. Wendlinger

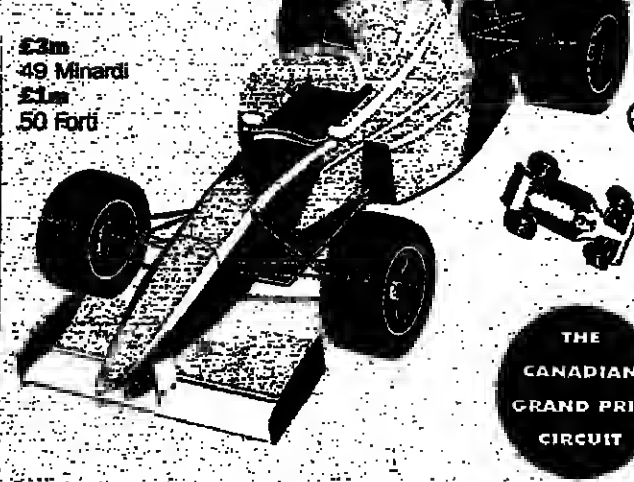
CHASSIS
£20m
40. Benetton
£18m
41. Williams
£18m
42. Ferrari
£18m
43. McLaren
£18m
44. Sauber
£18m
45. Jordan
£18m
46. Ligier
£18m
47. Tyrrell
£18m
48. Arrows

£2m
49. Minardi
£1m
50. Forti

ENGINE
£12m
51. Renault
£10m
52. Ferrari
£18m
53. Mercedes

£12m
54. Peugeot
£10m
55. Mugen
£8m
56. Ford V10
£8m
57. Yamaha
£4m
58. Hart
£3m
59. Ford Zetec
V8
£2m
60. Ford ED
V8

Shopping List



THE CANADIAN GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

...AND ENTER YOUR DREAM TEAM NOW

sport

US OPEN: Players' preparations to take on 'the monster' are disrupted as thunderstorm drowns fearsome course

Faldo in fine form before the flood

TIM GLOVER
reports from Oakland Hills

If Nick Faldo is going to win a US Open, this is the one. Every year the winner of the Masters is asked about the possibility of a Grand Slam and yesterday Faldo described attaining that as "fractionally higher than Everest." The Englishman has reached base camp and has made preparations for the ascent.

However, not even Faldo was prepared for the weather here in Detroit, and yesterday the course was cleared by a ferocious thunderstorm. The greens were flooded, the fairways were flooded and sand was washed out of several bunkers. The start of the championship today may be delayed.

Oakland Hills is a classic US Open course and the rough is getting higher as we speak, but then so is the water level. The place is described as the "monster" and with a par of 70 very few players have managed to tame it. In 1951, Ben Hogan produced a 67 in the final round for an aggregate of 281 and the championship has

been waiting for a thoroughbred ever since. The trouble is yesterday's storm has changed the nature of the course.

As it happens Hogan is Faldo's role model. He has visited him on several occasions although it would be an exaggeration to say they are bosom pals. When Gary Player once rang Hogan to ask him for some advice, the American

replied: "What clubs do you play with?" "Dunlop," Player replied. "Then ask Mr Dunlop," Hogan snapped.

Hogan came close to the Grand Slam in 1953 when he won the Masters, the US Open and the Open. He did not compete in the US PGA. If it was just

about possible then to win the Big Four, it does not seem possible now. "I understand what it's all about," Faldo said. "You've got to get your game right to start off. You've got to get everything right physically, mentally, emotionally, health, all sorts. Then you've got another 150 guys trying to compete. We all know how difficult it is but it is a possibility. If Nicklaus couldn't do it and Hogan couldn't do it."

The manner of Faldo's victory in the Masters in April might instil in him a belief that anything is possible. Greg Norman, the world No 1, blew a six-stroke lead and lost by five and there are other major questions to be answered here aside from Faldo's toehold on a Grand Slam. Can the Great White Shark recover from his reputation for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory? Can the 46-year-old Tom Watson, who ended a nine-year barren spell by winning the aptly named Memorial Tournament, win a ninth major? Can Ernie Els, in sublime form after blitzing the field by eight strokes in the Buick Classic last week, win his second US Open in three years? Can Colin Montgomerie break his duck? Will this be the wettest championship on record?

Norman was badly wounded in the crash at Augusta although he has been claiming here that the scars have healed. He says he played only two bad shots on that fateful Sunday, at the eighth and 16th holes. He is deluding himself. He did indeed play a wretched shot at the 16th but by that time the damage had been done. Norman is possibly the most gifted golfer to play the game since Hogan but his return of just two major titles suggests that he is a club short in the mental game.

Jack Nicklaus, the host of The Memorial Tournament, described Watson's victory as the most thrilling thing to happen in golf since... well, since Big Jack's victory in the Masters 10 years ago. Nicklaus was then aged 46,



Bunker mentality: Ian Woosnam tests the sand before the storm struck Oakland Hills yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

as Watson is now - yet for some gap-toothed reason he is not regarded as being a golden oldie. Like Norman, Watson has a mental problem although in his case it is confined to short putts. Despite his victory at Muirfield Village he did not entirely dispel the doubts. His final round of 70 contained 33 putts.

As for Monty he is one of the most consistent players in the world but has finished runner-up on far too many occasions. Last week in the Alamo English Open he appeared to be in the driving seat when his foot slipped off the

accelerator. Despite ensuring that the course was set up to replicate typical conditions at a US Open, he duffed chip shots out of the rough at both the penultimate and ultimate holes. He shot 75, 68, 68, 68.

"I didn't lose the tournament at the 17th and 18th," Montgomerie said. "I lost it in the first round." It is deluding himself. To duff one chip might be considered unfortunate; to duff two is doubly unfortunate. The impression is that if Monty cannot cut the mustard in the English Open at the Forest of Arden, he

is unlikely to land the hot dog in the US Open at Oakland Hills.

Montgomerie was beaten in a play-off by Els in the US Open at Oakland, in 1994 and the young South African has the game and certainly the form, following his Westchester victory last Sunday, to recapture the title. Like Faldo, Els has committed himself to the US Tour. "Last year was a learning experience for me," Els said. "I had to get used to the tournaments, the courses but now I've settled down."

Els thinks only 15 players have a chance of winning and two

of them, Nick Price and Fred Couples, have withdrawn. Asked to tip a contender, Els mentioned Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara, Greg Norman and himself. He did not mention Faldo.

Yesterday, before the storm, Faldo was warning to the "monster" which he said was one of the most difficult US Open courses he had played. "Every hole is very demanding," he said, "and there are very few birdie opportunities. It's going to be a week of churning out the pars. When it comes to par churning, nobody is better than Faldo."

Top-off times

(Times for first and second rounds BST, 18 holes)

12.00-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-12.40
12.40-12.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.50-1.00
1.00-1.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.10-1.20
1.20-1.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.30-1.40
1.40-1.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.50-2.00
2.00-2.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.10-2.20
2.20-2.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.30-2.40
2.40-2.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.50-3.00
3.00-3.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.10-3.20
3.20-3.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.30-3.40
3.40-3.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.50-4.00
4.00-4.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.10-4.20
4.20-4.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.30-4.40
4.40-4.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.50-5.00
5.00-5.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.10-5.20
5.20-5.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.30-5.40
5.40-5.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.50-6.00
6.00-6.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.10-6.20
6.20-6.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.30-6.40
6.40-6.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.50-7.00
7.00-7.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.10-7.20
7.20-7.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.30-7.40
7.40-7.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.50-8.00
8.00-8.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.10-8.20
8.20-8.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.30-8.40
8.40-8.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.50-9.00
9.00-9.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.10-9.20
9.20-9.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.30-9.40
9.40-9.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.50-10.00
10.00-10.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.10-10.20
10.20-10.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.30-10.40
10.40-10.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.50-11.00
11.00-11.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.10-11.20
11.20-11.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.30-11.40
11.40-11.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.50-12.00
12.00-12.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.10-12.20
12.20-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-12.40
12.40-12.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.50-1.00
1.00-1.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.10-1.20
1.20-1.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.30-1.40
1.40-1.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.50-2.00
2.00-2.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.10-2.20
2.20-2.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.30-2.40
2.40-2.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.50-3.00
3.00-3.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.10-3.20
3.20-3.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.30-3.40
3.40-3.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.50-4.00
4.00-4.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.10-4.20
4.20-4.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.30-4.40
4.40-4.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.50-5.00
5.00-5.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.10-5.20
5.20-5.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.30-5.40
5.40-5.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.50-6.00
6.00-6.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.10-6.20
6.20-6.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.30-6.40
6.40-6.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.50-7.00
7.00-7.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.10-7.20
7.20-7.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.30-7.40
7.40-7.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.50-8.00
8.00-8.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.10-8.20
8.20-8.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.30-8.40
8.40-8.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.50-9.00
9.00-9.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.10-9.20
9.20-9.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.30-9.40
9.40-9.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.50-10.00
10.00-10.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.10-10.20
10.20-10.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.30-10.40
10.40-10.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.50-11.00
11.00-11.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.10-11.20
11.20-11.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.30-11.40
11.40-11.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.50-12.00
12.00-12.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.10-12.20
12.20-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-12.40
12.40-12.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.50-1.00
1.00-1.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.10-1.20
1.20-1.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.30-1.40
1.40-1.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.50-2.00
2.00-2.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.10-2.20
2.20-2.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.30-2.40
2.40-2.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.50-3.00
3.00-3.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.10-3.20
3.20-3.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.30-3.40
3.40-3.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.50-4.00
4.00-4.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.10-4.20
4.20-4.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.30-4.40
4.40-4.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.50-5.00
5.00-5.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.10-5.20
5.20-5.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.30-5.40
5.40-5.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.50-6.00
6.00-6.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.10-6.20
6.20-6.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.30-6.40
6.40-6.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.50-7.00
7.00-7.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.10-7.20
7.20-7.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.30-7.40
7.40-7.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.50-8.00
8.00-8.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.10-8.20
8.20-8.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.30-8.40
8.40-8.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.50-9.00
9.00-9.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.10-9.20
9.20-9.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.30-9.40
9.40-9.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.50-10.00
10.00-10.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.10-10.20
10.20-10.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.30-10.40
10.40-10.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.50-11.00
11.00-11.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.10-11.20
11.20-11.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.30-11.40
11.40-11.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.50-12.00
12.00-12.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.10-12.20
12.20-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-12.40
12.40-12.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.50-1.00
1.00-1.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.10-1.20
1.20-1.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.30-1.40
1.40-1.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.50-2.00
2.00-2.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.10-2.20
2.20-2.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.30-2.40
2.40-2.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.50-3.00
3.00-3.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.10-3.20
3.20-3.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.30-3.40
3.40-3.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.50-4.00
4.00-4.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.10-4.20
4.20-4.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.30-4.40
4.40-4.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.50-5.00
5.00-5.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.10-5.20
5.20-5.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.30-5.40
5.40-5.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.50-6.00
6.00-6.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.10-6.20
6.20-6.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.30-6.40
6.40-6.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.50-7.00
7.00-7.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.10-7.20
7.20-7.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.30-7.40
7.40-7.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.50-8.00
8.00-8.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.10-8.20
8.20-8.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.30-8.40
8.40-8.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.50-9.00
9.00-9.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.10-9.20
9.20-9.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.30-9.40
9.40-9.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.50-10.00
10.00-10.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.10-10.20
10.20-10.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.30-10.40
10.40-10.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.50-11.00
11.00-11.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.10-11.20
11.20-11.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.30-11.40
11.40-11.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.50-12.00
12.00-12.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.10-12.20
12.20-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-12.40
12.40-12.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.50-1.00
1.00-1.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.10-1.20
1.20-1.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.30-1.40
1.40-1.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 1.50-2.00
2.00-2.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.10-2.20
2.20-2.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.30-2.40
2.40-2.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 2.50-3.00
3.00-3.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.10-3.20
3.20-3.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.30-3.40
3.40-3.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 3.50-4.00
4.00-4.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.10-4.20
4.20-4.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.30-4.40
4.40-4.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 4.50-5.00
5.00-5.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.10-5.20
5.20-5.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.30-5.40
5.40-5.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 5.50-6.00
6.00-6.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.10-6.20
6.20-6.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.30-6.40
6.40-6.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 6.50-7.00
7.00-7.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.10-7.20
7.20-7.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.30-7.40
7.40-7.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 7.50-8.00
8.00-8.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.10-8.20
8.20-8.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.30-8.40
8.40-8.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 8.50-9.00
9.00-9.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.10-9.20
9.20-9.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.30-9.40
9.40-9.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 9.50-10.00
10.00-10.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.10-10.20
10.20-10.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.30-10.40
10.40-10.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 10.50-11.00
11.00-11.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.10-11.20
11.20-11.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.30-11.40
11.40-11.50	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 11.50-12.00
12.00-12.10	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.10-12.20
12.20-12.30	N. Faldo, D. Ballester, B. Ballester, 12.30-

Kelleyway heading to top with Tower

At first sight, the bookmakers could be taking us for fools. The field for the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot next Tuesday is expected to include the 2,000 Guineas winners from Britain, France and Ireland, and yet in William Hill's opening list, a colt which started the season in handicaps and was beaten in a Listed race last time out is on offer at just 16-1.

What we have here, though, is not caution, but respect. Sorbie Tower is trained by Gay Kelleyway, whose yard has spent the first part of the season using bookmakers in much the same way that the rest of us use cashpoints. When the money is down, few trainers deliver as frequently as Kelleyway, and if she believes Sorbie Tower is worth a try in Group One company, the odds-compilers will give her the benefit of the doubt.

It matters little that the colt did not begin his three-year-old season in the Classics trials, but in a maiden at Doncaster, and then a series of handicaps. For Kelleyway, handicaps can be a means to an end rather than an end in themselves.

"I'm a great believer in working your way up," she said yesterday. "It can give a horse a huge amount of confidence. If any other trainer had had him they would probably have gone straight into Group company,

Greg Wood on a trainer the bookies will be wary of at Royal Ascot

but my route was a prosperous one because we backed him and we won a lot of prize-money. He's a really good horse. I've got some nice three-year-olds, but he's the best of the lot."

Anzio, bought out of an all-weather claimer during the winter, has already graduated from the Kelleyway course of instruction by adding a recent Group Three event at Leopardstown to a series of handicaps. He will set off for the six-furlong dash of the Wokingham next week with as good a chance as any, but it is Sorbie Tower who could really announce Kelleyway's arrival in the big time.

Sorbie Tower met his first defeat of the season in the Heron Stakes at Kempton last month, but he was unfortunate to lose him. Peter Chapple-Hyam's Regal Archipelago was the worthy of the step up to Group One company for his next outing. "He got carved up a treat at the beginning and then got into trouble, and he should have won at least a length. Ray [Cochrane] is a pessimist rather

than an optimist and he never flinched about putting him in the St James's Palace."

For Sorbie Tower's trainer, success would confirm her as one of the finest handlayers among the emerging generation. It would also be the perfect vindication of her decision to leave Newmarket last year for the Whitcombe Manor complex in Dorset. "I've always liked to think I can train horses, but down here you're more independent, you get more time and also better staff. You can be choosy, whereas in Newmarket it's very difficult to get good staff unless you're in the big league."

The opposition at Ascot appears fearsome, with the three Guineas winners, Mark Of Esteem, Ashkanani and Spinning World all expected to go to post. Bijou D'Inde, who ran Mark Of Esteem so close when third at Newmarket, and the Craven Stakes winner, Beauchamp King, are other probable contenders, but if Kelleyway is worried, she hides the fact well.

"You don't really know how good the Newmarket form is, because even they can't really tell. The French form is probably the best and Spinning World is obviously a really good horse, but mine is fit, well and very fresh and he never ceases to surprise me, he never



Gay Kelleyway and her Wokingham hope, Anzio. Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

er stops improving. There's very few Group One races about, and there's only one Royal Ascot."

Whether Sorbie Tower will

carry any of his trainer's money next week will be decided after he has worked on Saturday. "I think 16-1 might be a bit too short," she said, "but then if he

won last time he'd probably be 10-1, and if he was trained by H Cecil he'd be 3-1." The modesty seems genuine, but it is unnecessary all the same.

Boeuf off the menu as French prepare for Royal Ascot feast

Dominique Boeuf, heavily criticised for his rides on Shake the Yoke in the French 1,000 Guineas and on Helissio in the French Derby, has lost the mounts on both in Group One events next week. Olivier Pes-

lier takes over from Boeuf on the Elie Leflonche-trained Shake the Yoke in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot on Wednesday, while Cash Assmusen will ride Helissio, also Leflonche-trained, in the Grand

Prix Prix de Paris on Sunday week. There may also be a jockey change for Ashkanani, who spearheads the French challenge in Tuesday's St James's Palace Stakes and is due to have

some fine tuning today when he will work at Chantilly. Gerald Mossé, Ashkanani's regular partner, will know tomorrow whether his appeal against a four-day ban picked up last Sunday is successful. Michael

Kinane is being primed to take over. Other possible French runners at Ascot are Nononito (Gold Cup, Fort Nottingham (King Edward VII Stakes), Tulipa (Ribblesdale Stakes) and Tintus Livius (King's Stand Stakes).

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Charlie Sillett (Newbury 3.00)
NB: My Handsome Prince (Chepstow 8.15)

CARLISLE
2.15 Bold African 2.45 Flashy's Son 3.15
Thatched 3.45 Lawn Order 4.15 Wire Act 4.45
Bowlcliffe Grande (nap)
GOING: Firm.
STALLS: 1m 47.1m 6f - outside; remainder - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m.
Left-hand course, level and fast.
RECESSION: In N of town on A149, Yorkham station 1m. AD-
mitted 12-1. Thatched 12-1. Bowlcliffe Grande 12-1. Wire Act 12-1.
CAR PARK: On rail 53 (including occupancy) remainder free.

BLUNDERBERRY FIRST TIME (2.45), Majestic Midlight (4.15),
Thatched 3.45 (4.45), Bowlcliffe Grande (4.45), Wire Act (4.45).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bowlcliffe Grande (4.45) won at
Doncaster on Thursday; Thatched 3.45 (4.45) won at Doncaster on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE BLUNDERBERRY: Thatched 3.45 (4.45) has been sent
off with C. Bowles from Lambourn, Berkshire. Bowlcliffe Grande (4.45)
(2.15) sent 226 miles by M. Channon from Upper Lambourn, Berks.

2.15 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(CLASS E) £4,200 added 2Y0 f
1. BULLERS BAY M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8

2.45 BURNETT'S CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)
£3,450 added 6f
1. 320012. MAGNIFY (USA) (2Y0) (M) M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
2. 320013. FLASHY'S SON (2Y0) (M) M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
3. 320014. THATCHED 3.45 (2Y0) (M) M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
4. 320015. WIRE ACT 4.15 (2Y0) (M) M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
5. 320016. BOWLCLIFFE GRANDE (2Y0) (M) M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
6. 320017. BULLERS BAY M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
7. 320018. BULLERS BAY M. J. 9.0. J. Weaver 8
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TENNIS: Britain's leading singles players suffer a pre-Wimbledon setback in west London

Henman and Rusedski dispatched

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Queen's Club

The British challenge was terminated in the second round of the Stella Artois Championships here yesterday by the expertise and experience of two players who are best known in the company of others (and, no, Thomas Muster, the Duchess of York's friend, was not one of them).

Tim Henman, was defeated by Andrei Olhovskiy, who partners Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the Russian Davis Cup team, and Greg Rusedski lost to Todd Woodbridge, who forms the world's No 1 doubles team with his Australian compatriot Mark Woodforde.

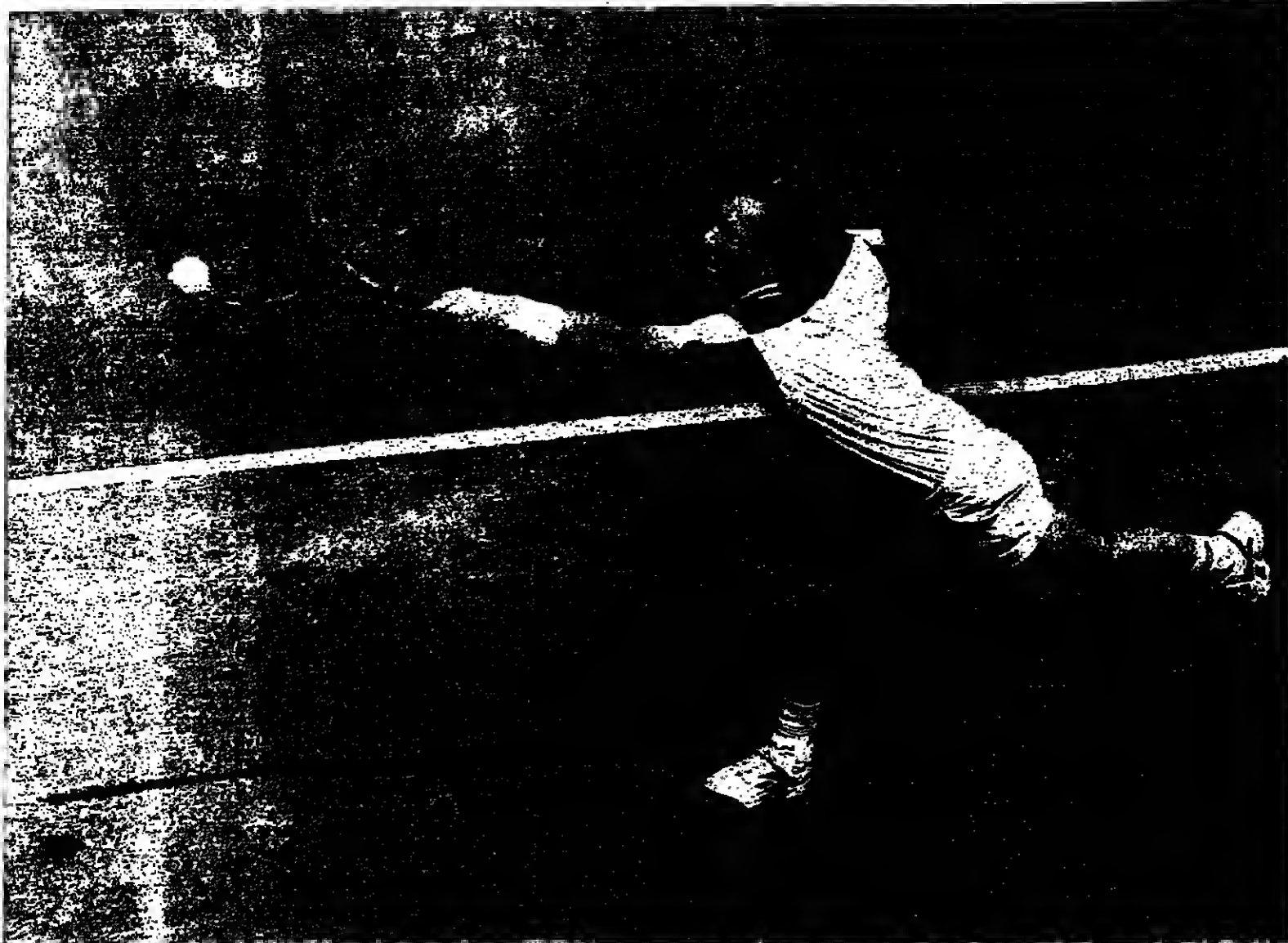
Both Britons, who are due to play in Nottingham next week, acknowledged that much work is required in the 12 days before the start of Wimbledon. Henman, beaten 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 by Olhovskiy, was particularly disappointed with his forehand returns. Rusedski, dispatched 6-1, 6-4 by Woodbridge, was concerned about the quality of the second shots he has to play after pounding down his serves.

Henman performed well until midway through the second set. The 21-year-old from Oxford saved three set points at 4-5 in the opening set, and gained the initiative in the tie-break by confidently returning a second serve down the line for 4-1: the very forehand shot which was to cost him later.

Although broken in the third game of the second set, Henman had two opportunities to recover to 3-3, only for the forehand to desert him. "My forehand return let me down a lot today," Henman said, "and when you can pinpoint something as precisely as that it gives you something to go away and work on."

Olhovskiy may be ranked 49 places below Henman, at No 110, but he has the all-court skills to profit on any surface. He demonstrated that as a Wimbledon qualifier in 1992, eliminating Jim Courier, the No 1 seed, in the third round.

The Russian broke in the opening game of the final set and wore Henman down in the third. After saving four break points, the Briton double-faulted to offer a fifth, which Olhovskiy converted



Aussie rules: Mark Woodforde reaches for the ball during his victory over Brian MacPhie at Queen's Club yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

with a backhand down the line. Henman briefly raised hope among his supporters on Court No 1 by breaking Olhovskiy with a splendid backhand lob when the Russian served for the match at 5-2, but lost his own serve in the next game.

There was less to enthuse about in Rusedski's case. Woodbridge presented him with the opportunity of a dream start by twice double-faulting en route to 0-40 in the opening game, but Rusedski was unable to convert any one of five break points. A sixth was presented in the fifth game, only to be whisked away by the Australian's volley. "It was one of those days you want to put behind you," Rusedski said.

Woodbridge, who, at 5ft 10in, is on the small side by modern tennis standards, has the ability to turn opponents' strengths against them. "I was lucky to get out of that first game," he admitted. "I just hung together, and from then on I returned well and nullified his weapon [Rusedski's serve]. Everything else in my game is better, and I think that showed."

The Australian, who hopes to continue his penchant for frustrating the big servers by forcing them to play more shots than they find comfortable, appreciates that Rusedski and his ilk are perfectly capable of retaliating. "Unfortunately, on certain days you can't heat these guys," Woodbridge said.

"They serve too big and take a swing at your serves and their returns go in." Apart from losing the match, Rusedski had some of his tennis clothing stolen from the locker-rooms.

Michael Stich, who lost to Kafelnikov in last Sunday's French Open final, defeated the American Michael Joyce, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, but was not impressed. "I'm still trying to work out in my mind how I lost in Paris," the German said.

Stefan Edberg advanced with a 7-6, 6-3, win against Australia's Sander Stolle, and Goran Ivanisevic scarcely paused for breath in dismissing the Czech Martin Pamm, 6-2, 6-2, in only 41 minutes.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 24

Tauziat breaks Thai in tie-break drama

Nathalie Tauziat, the second seed from France, made one of the greatest of escapes when she beat Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 in the second round of the DFS Classic at Edgbaston yesterday.

Tauziat, playing her first match on grass since last year's Wimbledon, not only lost the first set but trailed 6-0 in the tie-break in the second. Yet from this near-impossible position of six match-points down, Tauziat won the next eight points to take the second set and then romped through the third.

Afterwards a relieved Tauziat explained: "She missed the first match point with a close call and then I played very well. I served good, hit winners and won the set."

Tauziat felt the first match point was the crucial one. "She hit the ball just over the line and when the line judge called 'out', this man, who I think was her father, sitting on the side of the court, yelled 'Oh, my God'."

"I thought, what is he wor-

rying about? She has five more match points. What did I do when I won the set? I just looked up to heaven."

Tauziat, who won the Eastbourne tournament the week before Wimbledon last year, started badly because she explained: "This was my first match on grass for a year as I received a bye in the first round here. Tamarine played two matches in the qualifying and a first-round match and knew how to play. Fortunately, I found out what to do myself just in time. And when I had to do it, I did it."

Before Tauziat's Houdini act, three British girls, Clare Wood, Sam Smith and Karen Cross, were all beaten in the first round. Wood, who won the Beckenham tournament only last Saturday, was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by the big-serving American left-hander Nicole Pietrangeli. Smith went down 7-5, 6-3 to Miriam Oremans, of the Netherlands, and Cross lost 6-2, 6-2 to Maria Strandlund of Sweden.

Britons winded by conditions

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

A routine random test for drugs at the end of a frustrating day was something that Britain's reigning champions, John Merdicks and Ian Walker, could have done without at the 470 Europeans off Hayling Island yesterday.

Finishing 23rd and 13th saw them slip from third overall to fourth in conditions where the only thing they seemed able to rely on was that if they took a decision, it would be the wrong one. Fortunately, others were having the same problem.

What they cannot ignore is that the leaders, Dmitry Berezkin and Evgeny Burmatov, of Russia, and the world ranked No 1s, Andreas Kosmatopoulos and Kostas Trigonis, of Greece, have pulled away at the top. The Martians, as they are known because of their sponsorship by Mars, have some work to do over the last seven races.

Bowe lowers sights

Boxing

Riddick Bowe has held all versions of the world championship but his immediate career is now set on a non-title course.

Having handed back the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title he won from Norwich's Herbie Hide 15 months ago, Bowe is to meet Poland's Andrew Golota in New York on 11 July.

And victory against the medalist at the Barcelona Olympics

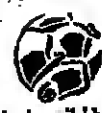
medalist could lead Bowe to a fight against another former WBO champion, Ray Mercer, whose career has been revitalised by his stunning but unsuccessful performance against Lennox Lewis last month.

London's Henry Akimwande, meanwhile, will meet the Russian southpaw Alexander Zolkin for the vacant WBO title in Palm Springs on 29 June - and if Akimwande wins, the promoter Frank Warren wants to set up an all British title fight with Scott Welch.

euro-spy

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

More than just a hairy hard man



As if his appearance was not already sufficiently threatening - long hair, wild beard and a cold, sinister stare - Trifon Ivanov was sporting a shining black eye when his side drew 1-1 with Spain at Elland Road last Sunday.

The 30-year-old defender is a fearsome sight at the best of times, and this additional facial decoration merely enhanced his reputation as a hard man. Ivanov's qualities will be needed more than ever at St James' Park today, where the Bulgarians take on their Balkan neighbours, Romania, minus his experienced defensive sidekick Peter Hrubchev, who was sent off against Spain.

In that match, Ivanov did more than most to restrict the capable Spaniards to one, slightly lucky, goal. He is much more than just a hatchet man, he is quick over short distances and reads the game well. His long-range shooting is also a

potent weapon: against Spain he twice worried Andoni Zubizarreta with shots from around the 30-yard range that shaved the woodwork.

His only goal in nine appearances in the qualifiers was a long-range blast; it was scored in the fifth minute at Cardiff Arms Park and it set up the Bulgarians for an arrogant 3-0 win, in which he did more than most to show the debutant Vinnie Jones how to be a tough guy and a footballer.

Although Ivanov has established himself on the international stage, his club career has not taken him to any of Europe's glamour clubs. After leaving CSKA Sofia, he had spells at Real Betis in Spain and Switzerland's Neuchâtel Xamax before moving last summer to Rapid Vienna, whom he helped to the Cup-Winners' Cup final. While with Neuchâtel he had a trial with Coventry - which ended when he was sent off in a reserve-team fixture.

Rupert Metcalf

EURO 96
RIP-OFFS

No 4: A canal-side pub near Old Trafford was charging a £3 entrance fee on Sunday. Have you come across any monster rip-offs? If so, fax details to Euro-spy on 02171 293 2894.

Sheffield join in the festivities



Sheffield FC, whose proud boast is that they are the world's oldest football club - they were formed in 1856 - are doing their bit to keep both visiting Euro 96 supporters and locals entertained.

Sheffield are taking part in a triangular international tournament afoot with another local non-league side, Hallam (formed 1860) and the Danish club, Hvidovre, who will play Sheffield at Owlerton Stadium (less than a mile from the rough) on Saturday (12 noon).

On Sunday (11am) Sheffield play Hallam in a summer "derby" while Hallam take on Hvidovre on Monday (7pm) at their Sandgate ground. Further details from Graeme Hinchcliffe on 0114 255 5450.

Bulgarians take to the high road



So farewell then, Scarborough. Bulgaria's squad yesterday packed their training camp at the Raven Hall Hotel at Ravenscar, near the East Yorkshire resort.

The country's football federation eventually bowed to pressure from the players, who had complained about lack of facilities and long journeys to Leeds and Newcastle. The squad will stay two nights in Scarborough and then move on to Newton Aycliffe on Friday to take over rooms vacated by Romania, who move to Leeds to prepare for their final match against Spain next Wednesday. Scarborough Borough Council, which sponsored the Bulgarians' visit to the tune of £25,000, is trying to get some of its money back...

FOOTBALL: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

"Eric? C'est qui, cet Eric? On ne le connaît pas ce mec-là."

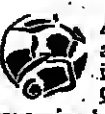
... which is French for: "Eric? Who's this Eric? We've never heard of the geezer."

EURO 96 XI

Team of the week

GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS
GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS	GOLEADERS

Vibrators come to the aid of referees



After 47 yellow and two red cards in just eight Euro 96 matches, the governing body of European football, Uefa, has confirmed the players' worst fears: the referees have eyes in the back of their heads.

Referees have been wearing armband radio receivers which emit a beep when activated by a button on the shaft of each linesman's flag. The armband also vibrates to act as a signal when the referee is unable to hear the beep over the noise of the crowd.

The optional extra for referees has been used in Swiss League matches for the last two seasons. "This is an invaluable help during moves when the referee has his back to the linesmen, when the bench is trying to make a substitution, or when a linesman wishes to attract attention to something which has happened behind his back," a Uefa spokesman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Uefa has denied that it has ordered a referees' clampdown at the tournament - despite the large number of yellow cards so far. Uefa's spokesman added: "Officials have only received two printed sheets of technical instructions, much of which is devoted to details such as the provision of drinks to players during matches."

The Uefa referees' committee stresses that, in a tournament lasting a whole month, the important thing is to apply the laws of the game as uniformly as possible. "However, the instructions urge referees to be strict with players who push or hold back opponents, in penalising fouls which could cause injuries and in penalising with a free-kick and a red card violent tackles which offer no opportunity to play the ball."

"Euro 96 referees are also urged to caution players who feign a foul, especially inside the penalty area. Clear cases of diving will be punished with a yellow card," Jürgen Klinsmann had better rethink his goal celebration routine.

«Tennis? I prefer the French Open»



The best loved premium beer in France.

Maldini came out on top because he has a more profound understanding of defensive play than anyone since Bobby Moore

Instead of filling their heads with pretentious thoughts about formations and tactics, lay football enthusiasts would be better served by attention to qualities that have established Paolo Maldini as the outstanding Italian footballer of his generation.

By this I mean not just Maldini's mastery of technique, the sureness of his touch and delivery, but the nous he has further demonstrated against Russia at Anfield on Tuesday when coming up against Andrei Kanchelskis.

A fundamental truth about football, one many of today's students fail to fully appreciate, is that tactical developments have done nothing to diminish the importance of individual tussles.

The prospect of that between a

full-back who has no equal in the game and a winger whose pace and directness regularly causes consternation in the Premiership was bound to quicken the pulse and provide relief from the impression that coaches have taken over the tournament.

Here, in fact, was an encounter that could have fitted into any period of football history. Maldini came out on top because he has a more profound understanding of defensive play than anyone since Bobby Moore, who had no equal among contemporaries.

A safe bet is that Maldini will not miss a match through suspension. Risking a referee's wrath does not figure on his agenda. Maldini demonstrated this when recovering from a rare moment of positional misjudgement, making up three yards in

less than 10 to thwart Yanovski, closing the Russian down without needing to put a foot in. By then Kanchelskis had wandered off to try his luck elsewhere, probably cursing the talent Maldini was born with.

Drooling over Maldini's accomplishments, the connoisseurs formed a good impression of the Italian team: excellent combination and mutual understanding indicates that teamwork, as ever, has been high on the curriculum.

You can say as much about the Germans who have already drawn the admiration of professionals. "They look very good," said Arsenal's assistant manager, Stewart Houston. "Obviously very well prepared and, their goalkeeper apart, strong in every position. It will take a good team to beat them."



COMMENTARY
KEN JONES

However, the way things have shaped up so far there is room for some individual attacking brilliance and a big improvement in long-range shooting. No complaints have been registered about the ball but one or

two people I have spoken to who earn their living from the game can find no other explanation for the inaccuracy.

A personal complaint is that the football authorities again appear to be using a major event to promote the spurious notion that the game would improve no end if they legislated against tackling.

The team that succeeds could possibly be the one that adapts best to prevailing attitudes. It may suggest a surfeit of efficiency, but the coach who studies referees closely on the clear understanding that they are seldom hampered by consistency could gain a critical advantage.

What we have been looking at so far is an international football tournament very little different in character from any other. You are always

likely to learn more from the second than the first matches. By then the players have settled down and the coaches have a clearer idea of what they are coming up against.

We shall have to wait and see how this applies to England but, as they say about racehorses, it is possible the Switzerland match may have brought them on a bit.

During the 24 hours following the publication of fresh reports concerning the extra-curricular activity of some England players it was agreed generally in discussion that they are naive to the point of stupidity.

What appears to escape them is that people profit from tipping off tabloid newspapers. It is like walking on to a building sight without a hard hat and complaining about being hit on the head by a falling rivet.

et. Despite the protestations advanced by Terry Venables it does not begin to make sense and is to my mind quite indefensible.

The biliousness with which Venables and his squad are now regarding people assigned to report on their preparation for Saturday's critical match against Scotland is not without precedent, but a siege mentality does not guarantee an improved performance.

Maybe it has something to do with the quite ridiculous attention now given to players in the Premiership but England are almost alone with the cult of personality. "We have no stars," the German coach, Berti Vogts, said this week. "The star is the team." Hardly a stirring philosophy but not one you would rush in to bet against.

Memories of a Wembley winner

Scots are feeling sorry for Gazza

PHIL SHAW



Above: John Robertson, then a Nottingham Forest player, scores from the penalty spot to give Scotland a 1-0 victory over England at Wembley in 1981. Right: Robertson at work last month at the Leicester City training ground. Photographs: The Scotsman (above); Peter Jay (right)

When the midfield general of Wollaton Hemlockstone FC wishes aloud for a Scotland victory over England on Saturday, it is no ordinary Nottinghamshire Sunday League blarney.

As the man who scored the goal which retained the European Cup for Nottingham Forest, and whom Brian Clough cast as both a genius in the Stanley Matthews mould and an overweight sloth, John Robertson's place in football lore is assured. But Robertson has another claim to fame which he fervently hopes is no longer his come the final whistle at Wembley.

Rewind to May 1981, when 90,000 spectators are watching England play Scotland beneath the twin towers. A goalless game is in its 65th minute as Robertson takes up the story: "Davie Provan played a great long ball through. Steve Archibald came on to it on the blind side of Bryan Robson, who tripped him."

"It was a blatant penalty. My hands went up for it until I realised I was going to have to take it. I started panicking a bit, and it didn't help when Trevor Francis (a Forest team-mate) ran from the half-way line to tell Joe Corrigan where I was going to put it."

John Robertson is the last man to give Scotland victory at the twin towers. As he tells Phil Shaw, it is a claim to fame that he fervently hopes will be displaced by Saturday evening

"I stuck it exactly where he'd said I would, to the keeper's right, which was my favourite side. Big Joe dived to the left. When I asked him about it years later, he said he changed his mind at the last moment."

Scotland won 1-0, but the next three visits ended in defeat. After the 1989 meeting in Glasgow, the world's oldest international (dating back to 1872, and beyond if you count Bannockburn and Culloden) was scrapped. Robertson thus became the last Scot to score the winner against the auld enemy at Wembley.

Nowadays he assists an old Forest colleague, Martin O'Neill, by scouting for newly promoted Leicester City. At 43 he is still winning championships, albeit in park football, and still mesmerising defenders with a skill which belies his thick-set frame and smoker's husky drawl.

As Clough put it: "When I felt off-colour I'd sit next to Robbo because then I'd look like Errol Flynn. Yet if you gave him a ball and a yard of grass, he became an artist." He hopes

to live up to the second part of that description in a veterans' match before Saturday's game.

Going off to represent Scotland provided Robertson with "an escape" from his manager's tiresome teasing. He made the ill-fated trip to the 1978 World Cup in Argentina with a single cap to his name. "Looking back, Ally MacLeod made a mistake taking me," he admitted. "Although I'd just won the title with Forest, I was overawed by the stars around me."

"Ally put me in the side after Willie Johnston was sent home for failing a drugs test. We drew 1-1 with Iran, not one of Scotland's greatest results, and I had a nightmare."

After the final, Jock Stein took over as manager. He was an "imposing, dominant figure", not unlike Clough, although Robertson saw Stein as more of a coach. "He liked to work with a blackboard, ask everyone to do specific things, whereas Cloughie never really bothered."

Opponents who failed to see beyond the chunky winger's languid style and tendency to

hog the left touchline were frequently caught out by his delivery from confined spaces. He went on to collect 28 caps, scoring eight goals, and played alongside Dalglish, Souness, Hansen, Strachan and Nicholas in what hindsight may claim as Scotland's last golden era.

"I'm reluctant to do the old pro's bit of saying things aren't what they were," Robertson said. "In fairness to today's team, we certainly never qualified for the European Championships when I played."

"We always had great players, going back to the Laws, Baxters and Bremners, but we had problems getting a unit. You watch the Germans, always regimented and disciplined. They play with their heads. We played with our hearts. We should've done far better."

The prospect of "gubbing" England had a knack of uniting the Scots, whatever religion or region they came from. Robertson laments the passing of the annual fixture, for as a boy in Drumchapel he had fantasised about donning the dark blue of Wembley. Surprisingly, he feels

the English approached the game with similar primordial passion.

"Alan Ball was the most obvious example, always going on about beating the Jocks. Sir Alf Ramsey was another. And I know Tony Woodcock and Trevor Francis were bitterly disappointed when we beat them."

Robertson remembers feeling mentally and physically drained after facing England. ("Mind you, I was knackered at the end of most games"). For this one, despite pre-tournament talk about the need for patience, he predicts a "typical British cup-tie".

The day he scored against England, the stadium seemed to be wreathed in tartan. Ticket restrictions mean the Scots will for once be in a minority. Nevertheless, another imposing performance by Gary McAllister could, Robertson argues, tilt a tight tussle Scotland's way.

He had feared that Craig Brown might have cut off his nose to spite his face by ignoring Richard Gough, but was heartened by Monday's backs-to-the-wall draw with the Netherlands. The capacity to grind out results was an option seldom considered in his day.

With Scotland bereft of natural attackers from the flanks,



bow Brown must wish he could call on Clough's "stunning bulk" now. "We used to have Davie Cooper, Davie Provan, Peter Weir and myself," Robertson recalled, "and before that, Willie Henderson, Jimmy Johnston, Willie Johnston and Eddie Gray."

"The likes of Liverpool and Aston Villa do well using wing-

backs, but genuine wingers appear to be a dying breed. I honestly don't know why."

The width Robertson gave Scotland was too often obscured by talk about the width of his waist. The frenzy of Wembley, which he rose above 15 years ago, may be a reminder of what the game has lost in the interim.

Mikhailov the key player for Penev

Bulgaria's coach, Dimitar Penev, has paid a generous tribute to his goalkeeper, Borislav Mikhailov, who earns his living in England with Reading.

Penev can call on world-class players like Hristo Stoichkov, Yordan Letchkov and Emil Kostadinov. However, he rates the 33-year-old Mikhailov above all others in his 22-man squad, saying: "He leads, he soothes, he inspires."

Mikhailov will be back between the posts when Bulgaria face Romania at St James' Park today. He was outstanding in the 1-1 draw with Spain in their opening match at Elland Road on Sunday, and is now hoping Bulgaria can improve on that performance against their neighbours. "We want to go into our final game against France with four points in the bag," the extrovert goalkeeper said. "We are looking forward to it as the match is like a derby. Yes, a bit like Reading v Oxford!"

The Bulgarian defender Petar Huhchev is ruled out after

being sent off against Spain, and that could open the door for Tanko Tsvetanov to return to the side. Aberdeen's new signing, Ilian Kirjakov, could miss the match after pulling a leg muscle in the opening game.

Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, has to decide whether to stick with goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea, whose blunder led to France's winner at St James' Park on Monday, or to recall Florin Prunea. "I have time to think and I am sleeping badly," Iordanescu admits. "We let in stupid goals all the time. I hope it is the last time because we need this victory against Bulgaria. Nothing else will do."

The defender Daniel Prodan is expected to replace George Mihaili after being ruled out for the opening game through suspension, while the striker Dinu Moldovan may play instead of Florin Raduciu.

Vogts relaxed on drink duty

While the whole of England appears to be in a ferment over its beer-swilling footballers, Germany's coach, Berti Vogts, yesterday admitted that his nation's bagmen contained a combination of Bavarian brew and that there are no instructions on when it should be drunk.

Vogts was asked whether he had any objection to players

having a drink after a game. "There are no instructions whatsoever and we honestly admit that we do have some Bavarian beer with us," he said.

The Bayern Munich defender Thomas Helmer, who will collect his 50th cap against the Russians at Old Trafford on Sunday, said: "Every player knows what he can do and

what he must do, and to relax and drink beer in the evening is no problem."

"You do not play bad because you go to a disco, or you drink something, or smoke. It's not the reason for this; there must be other reasons. I really come from what you do on the field, how you play. You must have discipline then you can win."

Hottiger stands by resolute defending

Marc Hottiger, the Everton defender, returns to the Switzerland side confident they can cause further frustration for the Netherlands in their Group A meeting today. Suspended for the 1-1 draw against England, Hottiger looks certain to replace Sebastian Jcamerit, the young right-back who was given a difficult time by Steve McManaman until the Liverpool forward was substituted in the second half last Saturday.

Hottiger, who watched the Dutch fail to hit top form in the goalless draw against Scotland on Monday, said: "The way the Scots defended was very encouraging for us. The Dutch may be the most technically gifted team in the tournament but, if we can stop the early attacks like Scotland did, we have the chance to do the same as we did against England."

"Scotland had one or two chances despite the pressure they were under, but we have players capable of scoring goals. After the England result I think

other teams will have to take us much more seriously now."

Hottiger insists he is unconcerned that the Swiss will face a Dutch team playing their pair of out-and-out wingers, with Peter Hoeslstra likely to replace Gaston Taument and Jordi Cruyff switching to his more natural role on the right. "We know Holland will attack us but it is my plan to turn the winger. I want to push him as deep as possible and help give us the initiative," Hottiger said.

Artur Jorge, the Swiss coach, is again ready to leave Stephane Chapuisat, the Borussia Dortmund striker, on the bench, even though his display as a substitute against England helped rescue the match at Wembley. "It's possible he could start this time but many coaches would regard playing three attackers against Holland as stupid," Jorge said.

EURO 96									
Group A									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	Net
Switzerland	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
England	2	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Scotland	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Netherlands	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	-1	-1
Group B									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	Net
France	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Spain	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Belgium	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sweden	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	-1	-1
Group C									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	Net
Germany	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Italy	2	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Spain	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sweden	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	-1	-1
Group D									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	Net
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Denmark	2	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Portugal	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sweden	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	-1	-1

It was a blatant penalty. My hands went up for it until I realised I was going to have to take it'

JOHN ROBERTSON on why he would like to be replaced in the Wembley history books

England's management miss the point

When the press were allowed into Bisham Abbey yesterday it looked as if Terry Venables had finally cracked. There was Bryan Robson hitting crosses and David Seaman attempting to volley them past Alan Shearer in goal.

Fortunately this was not the England coach's latest experiment. It was evidence that, for all the criticism and pressure, his players were still capable of enjoying themselves. Unfortunately, their capacity to do so is a mixed blessing. Saturday night's alleged 2.30am players' drinking session in an Essex nightclub, and the coverage of it, continues to foster a resentful atmosphere in the England camp.

Having got the matter off his chest with his trailors' jibe on Tuesday, Venables was in a more amiable mood yesterday but his assistant, Robson, still had a few impassioned words to say.

"We are coming into a competition and we are all supposed to be together for England," he said. "I have seen a lot of rubbish talked. Paul Ince goes to a private barbecue and there is a photo of him on the front of a national newspaper - he's had two bottles of Budweiser. If anybody is telling me that is going to wreck his performance in a match a week away I can't see it. That [coverage] is detrimental to England."

The Germans were out having a few drinks on Monday, I

know that for a fact. But I read reports saying we are the only team that has a few beers - if we are so naive as to think that, and are going to make such a type about it, we may as well forget about [press conferences] because you may as well write what you want to write and knock the players however you want to."

Robson's words underlined the anger within the England camp but, like Venables, he missed the point. Venables had also said that other teams like a drink, including the Italians, and that, when the Irish did it, it is applauded. What he did not mention was that the Italians drink wine, and then Irish in moderation, and the Irish, as with the Germans on Monday, do

Glenn Moore is unimpressed as Bryan Robson carries the attack to the media

as a team and after a victory. The key word is victory. You can get away with a lot if you are winning, but if the performance is poor the presentation must be beyond reproach. Night-clubbing into the early hours after such a jaded display as Saturday's is so obviously stupid it smacks of arrogance. Anyone who paid £25 to £100 to be at Wembley was bound to be piqued at seeing Teddy Sheringham, who looked so exhausted at 4pm, out clubbing at 2.30am, boozing or not.

The pity of it is those players who took the sensible option and kept a low profile are - as

with the Cathay Pacific incident - tarred with the same brush. One wonders if this is really conducive to team spirit.

That said some of the coverage of England, on and off the pitch, is way over the top and Robson made a very valid point when he said this was inhibiting players' performances. "The younger players are frightened to death to play for England because of the publicity they get for absolutely anything," he said.

"I thought Gary Neville played very well against Norway in October but he had a nervous

first 10 minutes and he is criticised to the hilt. He's only a young kid so he gets tense. He is wondering about his performance in the next game."

"I don't care how thick-skinned you are, if you are being criticised every day for three weeks you are going to get apprehensive, no one is that tough. People should be encouraging them to play for England, not knocking them. They are young lads, now and again they will be out of order, but in general they work very hard. Apart from a couple of nights they have prepared very well for this game."

Neville has not harboured a grudge - in China he stunned the media by helping a veteran photographer carry his equipment

on the drafting climb to the Great Wall. Yesterday, despite being, he said, drawn into mild but unintended criticism of England's build-up no television last week, he again faced the press with his customary honesty.

"Switzerland did to us what we have been seeking to do to other teams," he said of Saturday. "They kept pushing us back, we retreated and stopped putting pressure on the man on the ball."

"We now have to play the game, not the occasion. It's wrong to suggest the Scots are more passionate about it. England are just as hyped up. They just show it more."

Meanwhile David Platt pulled out of training yesterday with a

painful rib injury and Darren Anderson is troubled by a tight hamstring. Both are likely to play if fit as England are expected to revert to a three-man defence to counter the Scots' midfield strength. The big question is, who plays in the centre?

Tony Adams has 41 caps and nine years international experience. Gareth Southgate made his international debut in December. But on Saturday Southgate looked far more comfortable. If Duncan Ferguson was playing for Scotland the choice would be obvious but, against the less physically daunting, but more nimble Gordon Durie and Scott Booth, Southgate should be preferred.

Germans take a swig, page 27

Organisers probe illegal ticket sales

NICK HARRIS

Euro 96 officials are investigating an organisation illegally selling tickets for Saturday's match between England and Scotland.

Tickets agencies contacted by the Independent yesterday said that they were not dealing in Euro 96 tickets. One agency, however, provided the telephone number of someone who could supply tickets. Prices started at £90 for tickets with a face value of £25. £35 tickets were available at £125, £45 at £150 and more exclusive tickets were "by arrangement". Asked if the organisation would be able to provide a dozen tickets, the seller replied that it would not be a problem. No questions

were asked about which area of seating was required.

The re-sale of football tickets is illegal under the Criminal Justice Act and the organisers of Euro 96 are especially keen to monitor ticket sales and keep rival fans apart. The England-Scotland game, the first between the sides since 1989, is potentially one of the most volatile fixtures of the tournament in terms of crowd trouble.

A spokesman for Euro 96 said that it was impossible to control who used every single ticket. He cited the example of foreign fans living in England who may have bought tickets in this country and thus be seated with English fans. He added: "We will investigate all reports of tickets being sold at inflated prices in breach of the regulations." Ultimately, he said, it is a matter for the police.

A police spokeswoman said they were aware that some tickets were being sold by unlicensed organisations, and that the police had been clamping down on sellers. She added: "We're dealing with it, and on the whole, we're on top of it."

For Saturday's game, there will be 1,000 police officers operating around London. "We're prepared for any eventuality," said the spokeswoman.

One group of people who are not so happy with the Euro 96 arrangements are supporters who cannot get tickets for matches, even when there are thousands of unsold tickets.

The problem was highlighted in Nottingham on Tuesday evening when 4,000 tickets went unsold while thousands of supporters were left outside. That problem was alleviated last night when the Football Association agreed to match-day sales for the other City Ground games, but the system is still at fault elsewhere.

Another mystery has been why, if more than 90 per cent of the tickets have been sold as organisers announced earlier this week, do the grounds appear to be anything but full?

The answer seems to be that tickets have been sold to foreign football federations who have been unable to return them for re-sale. "That's why the tickets sold to correspond to the people in the seats," a Euro 96 spokesman said yesterday.

McAllister up for sale

Gary McAllister, the Scotland captain, has been put up for sale by Leeds United, who want £3m for the 31-year-old midfielder.

Arsenal and Rangers, who both made enquiries about McAllister last season, have been told of his availability.

Now in the shop window of Euro 96, McAllister has said he would even consider a move abroad after six seasons at Leeds where he has grown disillusioned with the performance in the Premiership.

Leeds have already set up the transfer of Gary Speed to Ever-

ton, while Phil Masinga is bound for Grasshopper Zurich. Incoming could be Shay Given, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper unhappy with being Tim Flowers' understudy.

Bixente Lizarazu, the French international left-back Arsenal were hoping to lure to Highbury, is poised to join Athletic Bilbao in a £1.5m deal.

Wolves have asked Lillestrom to name their price for the 28-year-old, Norwegian midfielder Stale Solbakken. The South African striker Mark Williams could be leaving Molineux for Bristol City.



They're off: Peter Martin sprints for the pavilion after scampering Lancashire's winning run yesterday

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Hegg heaves Lancashire to unlikely win

Cricket

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Old Trafford Yorkshire 250-5 Lancashire 251-9 Lancashire win by 1 wk

There could never be a much better limited-overs match than this. When Craig White ran in to bowl the last ball to Peter Martin, Lancashire, with their last pair together, needed two to win. Martin, who had missed the two previous balls, drove to backward point and the two runs were scampered.

This breathtaking finish took Lancashire through to play Northamptonshire in the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's on 13 July, but the events leading up to this last ball were as dramatic from the very first delivery

of this extraordinary second day which was eventually dominated by Warren Hegg's batting.

A mixture of brilliant strokes, craftily improvised and one or two bits of luck had brought Yorkshire 52 runs in their last four overs at their start and had taken Michael Bevan and Richard Blakely to their best scores in this competition. Their stand of 167 in 162 balls was also a sixth-wicket record for the competition.

Their onslaught took the stuffing out of Lancashire just as it inspired Yorkshire. In the first 11 overs of their innings Lancashire lost three wickets for 36, but at 46, came the moment in which Yorkshire probably lost the match. Neil Fairbrother, who was 10, drove at Peter Hartley and David Blyth dropped a juggling catch at the third attempt at slip.

The importance was not immediately apparent, because a

splendid throw by Michael Vaughan from deep extra ran out Nick Speak, and at 97, Graham Lloyd was caught behind.

It was over that Hegg began his innings. He was frenetic and he began by crashing Craig White to the off-side boundary three times in an over. His first 25 runs came from 20 balls and he and Fairbrother put on 64 in 72 balls and gave Lancashire their first inkling of victory.

At 161 in the 40th over, Hegg pushed Hartley a yard or two to the off, ran and White coming in from cover kicked the ball on to the stumps to run out Fairbrother. When Ian Austin gave Gough a gentle return catch 13 runs later, Lancashire seemed out of it again.

However, Gary Yates proved an excellent partner for Hegg. When Richard Stamp, who had bowled nine overs for 29, came

back for his last, Yates off-drove him for six. Hegg off-drove him for another, the ball going through Martyn Moxon's hands on the boundary.

With five overs left Lancashire still needed 47. The ball was changed, Hegg drove the first with the new one over cover for six and was bowled

carving at the next having made 81 in 61 balls. Eleven were needed from two overs; brilliant fielding by Anthony McGrath ran out Yates and with eight needed from the last over Lancashire's final pair took them to Lord's at the very last gasp.

Northamptonshire win. Scoreboard, page 24

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No. 3012, Thursday 13 June By Spurious

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

1. A little housework? (7, 8)

2. Deformity given special emphasis (8)

3. Identifying tag left on murder victim (5)

4. Like medical insurance pay-out that's dishonestly come by? (3-6)

5. Phony American college in Iowa getting into difficulty (9)

6. A word from the umpire? (5-4)

7. Clergyman given intravenous infusion that's beneficial (8)

8. Contract on Mussolini? (6)

9. Wood from Spain, very thin (5)

10. Was taking part in winter canal race etc as dike burst? (3-4)

11. Enthusiast provides staff with first clue (6)

12. Wicker article used in church (4)

13. Sodium application, one producing sickness (6)

14. Frosty pawbroker's accepted acrobat's apparatus (8)

15. Place that's located in middle of slum (4)

16. Begin Latin translation, apt to elude one's mental grasp? (10)

17. Shed tears about new girl's endless social pretensions (8)

18. Contract on Mussolini? (6)

19. Wood from Spain, very thin (5)

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48. Contract on Mussolini? (6)

49. Wood from Spain, very thin (5)

50. Was taking part in winter canal race etc as dike burst? (3-4)

51. Enthusiast provides staff with first clue (6)

Cotton leads Lions into professional era

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Whatever the outcome of the arguments over next year's Five Nations Championship, at least one Englishman will line up alongside Welsh, Irish and Scots players at the end of the season. Fran Cotton, 48, the former England prop, will be the manager of the 1997 Lions trip to South Africa, the first professional tour organised by the four home unions.

Ray Williams, chairman of the four home unions' tours committee, said that England will remain at the heart of the Lions. "This is the new four home unions committee," he announced, "which, thank God, has nothing to do with the Five Nations. All of us here are on exceptionally good terms."

Since Cotton, a member of the victorious Lions tour to South Africa in 1974, will be chairman of the selection committee both before and on tour, there is little likelihood of talented England players being ignored. Provided,

that is, that they are happy with his appointment. Cotton was a staunch supporter of Cliff Brittle and was co-opted by the controversial RFU executive chairman to attend the often angry negotiations with the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs.

Clearly, though, having beaten his old captain, Bill Beaumont, and Scotland's Duncan Paterson to the post, Cotton, who played in England's 1980 Grand Slam side, and on two Lions tours, has come to terms with professionalism.

However he is aware of the toll the new world might take. "The last thing we want is to climb aboard the jumbo with everyone held together by sticking plaster," he said. "We have to deal with unions, clubs and players and outline a responsible attitude to preparation. Once the party has been picked - towards the end of March - we will look carefully at individual players' schedules." Which could involve another bout of interesting negotiations with the clubs.

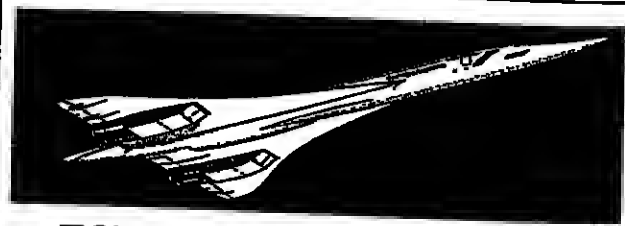
The last Lions tour to New Zealand cost the four home

unions more than £200,000. This time they will be sponsored, and the South African RFU president, Louis Luyt, is ready to discuss some form of share-out of funds (presumably gate money and broadcasting fees).

Then there are the payments for the players themselves. No figures were being bandied about yesterday, but Cotton has clearly got some set ideas. He wants all 30 players to be treated equally. "Those not on the field during a Test can become demoralised," he said. "But they are just as important to the success of the tour. To pay different players on different lines would be totally divisive."

Cotton has avoided one early pitfall. His sports and leisurewear company, Cotton Traders, will not be kicking out the Lions. "About six months ago, long before I was nominated for this position," Cotton said, "we submitted a tender for the Lions contract, but we were not successful. I don't even know who did get it."

Wales lose again, page 24



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